

SPECIMEN COLLECTION FOR COMMON VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES

MEASLES (RUBEOLA)

PCR

- Throat swab using synthetic swab
- Use only viral or universal transport media



IgM/IgG Serology

- Draw 7-10 ml of blood in a gold top/serum separator tube (SST)



Urine

- Collect 10-50 ml of urine in sterile collection cup



MUMPS

PCR

- Massage parotid glands for ~30 seconds
- With a synthetic swab, swab where parotid duct enters oral cavity/buccal area (Stenson's duct) on both sides of oral cavity
- Use only viral or universal transport media



IgM/IgG Serology

- Draw 7-10 ml of blood in a gold top/serum separator tube (SST)



PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH)*

PCR

- Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab using synthetic swab



Do not test after 5 days of antibiotic use or if the patient is asymptomatic

* These are general pertussis specimen collection guidelines. Please follow the specific instructions provided by your organization's testing laboratory.

VARICELLA (CHICKENPOX)

PCR/VIRUS ISOLATION

Collecting crusts/scabs

- Lift off multiple crusts/scabs and transfer directly into sterile break-resistant snap-cap or screw-top tubes



Polyester swab method

- Collect cells from the base of the vesicular lesion by swabbing vigorously with a synthetic swab
- Place swabs individually into separate sterile tubes without transport media
- Specimen must be kept dry



Important Note about Forms and Specimen Labeling

Specimens must be labeled with at least 2 patient identifiers (Last and First Name, Date of Birth or Medical Record Number) which must match the information on the accompanying lab forms. Due to the similarity of the lab forms, please carefully select the correct form for the specific disease and specimen source. Specimens may be rejected or testing may be delayed if these instructions are not followed.

Call LA County Public Health for consultation.

Weekdays 8:30am – 5:00pm call: 213-351-7800 (ask for epidemiologist on call).

After hours or on weekends call: 213-974-1234.

All specimens should be stored at 4°C until pick-up.