

Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)
Alabama Emergency Response Technology (ALERT) Health Alert Network (HAN)

Measles Reporting and Testing

Background

- From January 1 to February 6, 2015, 121 people from 17 states in the U.S. (AZ, CA, CO, IL, MI, MN, NE, NY, OR, PA, SD, TX, UT, WA) were reported as having measles.
- In 2014, Alabama had one identified case of measles from an international traveler.

Guidance for healthcare providers

- Healthcare providers should be vigilant in considering the diagnosis of measles in the differential based upon history, physical, and risk factors.
- Ensure all patients are up-to-date on measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.
- Ask patients about recent international travel or travel to domestic venues frequented by international travelers.
- Ask patients about a history of measles exposure in their communities.
- Promptly isolate patients with suspected measles to avoid disease transmission and immediately report the suspect measles case to the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH).
- Obtain specimens for testing from patients with suspected measles, including viral specimens for genotyping, which can help determine the source of the virus.

Report Presumptive Measles within 24 hours

Providers who have patients who meet the following criteria for suspected measles must report to ADPH within 24 hours:

- Generalized, maculopapular rash lasting ≥ 3 days and
- Temperature ≥ 101 F and
- Cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis

To report a presumptive measles case on line, complete the [REPORT Card](#), or call IMM at 1-800-469-4599. As of 12/31/2014, the [Notifiable Disease Rules](#) have been updated.

Testing at the Bureau of Clinical Laboratories (BCL)

ADPH requests all measles testing to go through the BCL, and BCL will forward to CDC or the Wisconsin Department of Public Health. Providers can submit measles specimens for patients who meet the clinical description above to confirm measles. Providers must complete the [Wisconsin State Laboratory Hygiene Form](#) for each specimen submitted on the BCL Homepage. All measles serum specimens must be accompanied by a simultaneous PCR specimen (throat swab, nasopharyngeal aspirate or swab, or urine) for testing. Properly packed specimens may be brought to the local county health department for overnight courier service at no charge or may be shipped directly at provider's expense to:

ADPH/BCL

8140 AUM Drive

Montgomery, AL 36117

Laboratory Tests to Confirm Measles

- Isolation of measles virus from a clinical specimen
- Detection of measles-virus specific nucleic acid from a clinical specimen using polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
- IgG seroconversion or a significant rise in measles immunoglobulin G antibody using any evaluated and validated method
- A positive serologic test for measles immunoglobulin M antibody (IgM)

To learn about measles testing, please review [CDC Measles Lab Tool](#).

Resources

- For more information about measles, see <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp/>.
- If you have a question about reporting a presumptive measles case, call IMM at 1-800-469-4599.
- If you have a question about specimen collection and shipping, call BCL at 334-260-3400.