

Approach for MHO-directed Community Specimen Collection

Application

1. This plan applies to community specimen collection for measles testing when directed by the Medical Health Officer (MHO).

- Individuals who present for care in an emergency department, urgent primary care centre (UPCC), or a primary care provider's office, may be offered a measles test in those settings if clinically indicated.
- Clients are eligible for *community specimen collection* when assessed and recommended for testing by the CD Unit (CDU) or the Provincial Workplace Health Contact Centre (PWHCC). This applies to individuals who have been exposed to measles AND who are exhibiting symptoms consistent with measles as assessed by the CDU or PWHCC.

2. The Measles Response Coordination Committee (MRCC) on the advice of the CDU/MHO determines collection level in a community, using the following table as a guide.

Level 1	Measles has not been detected in the community.	Collection available by appointment during regular business hours. Dedicated collection nurse not required if appointments can be managed with baseline staffing.
Level 2	Measles case in the community with limited number of contacts.	As for Level 1 with additional appointments during regular business hours. Dedicated nurses may be required to meet demand.
Level 3	Multiple confirmed cases and/or significant number of contacts.	As for Level 2 with service expanded to evenings and weekends. Tent may be required to accommodate anticipated volumes.

** Available weekdays during normal working hours at all health centres (8:30 - 4:30).*

Note that extended hours and days may be available at Level 1 and 2 if the collection location is an Urgent Primary Care Centre.

Process

- CDU, area/site leadership, PWHCC, Public Health, Laboratory, Contracts and Partners, IPAC to recommend activation level to MRCC for decision.
- CDU directs clients to their local specimen collection location.
- Clients call the location on arrival and swab is completed outdoors with clients remaining in their vehicle where possible.
- Client is provided a urine kit to complete and return.

Requirements

- Staff education for [nasopharyngeal swab collection](#).
- Specimen collection: urine and NP/throat swab.
- The MHO will write all orders for lab testing when they direct that happen.
 - This will not be the case for clinically ill patients who present to a clinic, UPCC or Emergency setting.

Logistics

- Clinical operations to identify collection locations based on site characteristics and operational considerations. Note that clients may be required to travel further to a collection location at Level 1, with some communities not activating until Level 2 or 3.
- Collection centre to be equipped to swab clients outside of their vehicle where required.

Guidance

- See [specimen location selection considerations](#).
- See [IPAC guidance](#) – workflow, ventilation, PPE.
- See [Lab guidance](#) – specimen collection, specimen transport, specimen storage.
- See [WHS guidance](#) – staff safety, signage, staff training.
- See [SOP template for specimen collection](#) for Interior Health geo-areas.

Stand-Down

- MHO guidance, at direction of MRCC.