

July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

25-27

**To:** IH Acute Care staff, IH Providers, IPAC  
**From:** Microbiology Working Group, Dr. Amanda Wilmer, Medical Director Microbiology  
 Melinda Carrier, Health Services Director

**Re:** New Molecular Assay for Measles




On July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Interior Health will introduce measles testing on nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs, throat swabs and urine samples using a new molecular assay at the Kelowna General Hospital (KGH) microbiology lab.

### Important Information

For diagnosis of acute measles infection, a respiratory specimen (e.g.: nasopharyngeal **OR** throat swab) **AND** urine should be collected for molecular testing at KGH.

### Collection and Ordering Information:

- Please refer to the [Microbiology Test Menu](http://www.interiorhealth.ca) at [www.interiorhealth.ca](http://www.interiorhealth.ca) > Information For> Medical Staff> Clinical Tools & Resources> Laboratory Services Guide> Microbiology for complete information on measles specimen collection
- Patients must be placed on **Airborne, droplet and contact precautions** when measles is suspected
  - More information can be found at: [healthbc.sharepoint.com/sites/IPCPortalIH/Shared Documents/Forms/All.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FIPCPortalIH%2FShared Documents%2FMeasles Quick Guide%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FIPCPortalIH%2FShared Documents](http://healthbc.sharepoint.com/sites/IPCPortalIH/Shared Documents/Forms/All.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FIPCPortalIH%2FShared Documents%2FMeasles Quick Guide%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FIPCPortalIH%2FShared Documents)

Specimen type	Collection Container
REQUIRED, one of either: Nasopharyngeal swab	
OR	Red-top Copan UTM for NP swab
Throat swab	
	Blue-top Copan UTM for throat swab
REQUIRED: Urine	
	Sterile container for urine

- Order “**Measles Panel**” in Meditech

### Action Required

- Submit samples for measles testing to your local IH laboratory immediately after collection, or refrigerate samples if immediate transport is not possible
- Place patients on **Airborne, Droplet & Contact Precautions** when measles is suspected

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For inquiries and feedback please contact:  
[Andrea.Ward@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:Andrea.Ward@interiorhealth.ca), Technical Specialist, Microbiology