(Area)

MHO-directed

Measles Specimen Collection Sites

Suspect/Confirmed Measles

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| A ***PRINTED*** copy of this Standard Operating Procedure may not be the most recent version. | |
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| **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**  (Area) MHO-directed Measles Specimen Collection Sites | **DATE:** July 14, 2025 |
| **REVISED DATE:** August 7, 2025 |
| **REVIEWED DATE:** |

# Purpose

Measles is a highly infectious communicable disease, warranting careful consideration of patient movement and placement. Clients are eligible for *community specimen collection* when assessed and recommended for testing by the Communicable Diseases 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. Other specimen collection processes are used if patients present to health care services due to medical concerns in conjunction with measles signs and symptoms.

This document has been developed to guide (area) Interior Health clinical operations staff in enacting the [Measles Specimen Collection Approach](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/default/files/PDFS/dc-approach-for-mho-directed-community-specimen-collection.pdf) in a standardized manner, once the Measles Response Coordination Committee (MRCC) has determined collection is required and the collection level in the community (see Procedures, Section 3). Communication will be sent out from the MRCC to area leadership on that decision.

# Procedures

## Choosing Collection Site Location(s)

* 1. Once the Measles Response Coordination Committee has identified that there will be a need for community specimen collection locations, the (area) Executive Director will direct that preparations begin.
  2. (Position) will identify community collection locations in collaboration with Public Health, Laboratory, Leasing & Partners (for leased locations), Parking Services, Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC), Provincial Workplace Health and Safety (PWCC) and Primary Care leadership (as required).
  3. Specific actions for selecting site locations are in this document: [specimen location selection considerations](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/default/files/PDFS/dc-specimen-collection-considerations-for-locations.pdf).

## Planning, Logistics

* 1. (Leadership) will work with Laboratory, IPAC, PWCC, Public Health and CDU to prepare for specimen collection activities.
* [Laboratory](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/default/files/PDFS/dc-ipac-measles-lab-requirements-checklist-for-community-collections.pdf) requirements for nasopharyngeal/throat swab and urine collection
* [IPAC](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/default/files/PDFS/dc-specimen-collection-community-locations-ipac-guidance.pdf) requirements
* [Workplace Health and Safety](https://healthbc.sharepoint.com/sites/OcchealthPortalIH/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FOcchealthPortalIH%2FShared%20Documents%2FWHS%20Checklist%20for%20Measles%20Outdoor%20Testing%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FOcchealthPortalIH%2FShared%20Documents) requirements
* Confirm that staff have completed education for [nasopharyngeal swab collection](https://healthbc.sharepoint.com/sites/LaboratoryPortalIH/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FLaboratoryPortalIH%2FShared%20Documents%2FNasopharyngeal%20%28NP%29%20Swab%20Collection%20Instructions%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FLaboratoryPortalIH%2FShared%20Documents)
* The Medical Health Officer is the physician for test orders for this directed specimen collection.

## Responding at the Determined Collection Level

* 1. The MRCC will indicate the collection level for the specimen collection process.

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| Level One | Measles has not been detected in the community. | * Collection available by appointment during regular business hours (8:30-4:30). * Extended hours and days may be available if the collection location is a UPCC. * Dedicated collection nurse not required if appointments can be managed with baseline staffing. |
| Level Two | Measles case in the community with limited number of contacts. | * As for Level One with additional appointments during regular business hours. * Extended hours and days may be available if the collection location is a UPCC. * Dedicated nurses may be required to meet demand. |
| Level Three | Multiple confirmed cases and/or significant number of contacts. | * As for Level Two with service expanded to evenings and weekends. * A tent may be required to accommodate anticipated volumes. |

## Client Encounter

## Level One

* 1. Specimen collection will occur outside – if possible, clients will remain in their vehicles. Note – specimen collection for children will require a stable chair (see [IPAC](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/default/files/PDFS/dc-specimen-collection-community-locations-ipac-guidance.pdf) requirements).
  2. Clients will arrive at (location), park in designated stall and turn off vehicle.
  3. Prepare for the client encounter by having necessary equipment, requisition and PPE available. Refer to [lab](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/default/files/PDFS/dc-ipac-measles-lab-requirements-checklist-for-community-collections.pdf), [IPAC](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/default/files/PDFS/dc-specimen-collection-community-locations-ipac-guidance.pdf) and [WHS](https://healthbc.sharepoint.com/sites/OcchealthPortalIH/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FOcchealthPortalIH%2FShared%20Documents%2FWHS%20Checklist%20for%20Measles%20Outdoor%20Testing%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FOcchealthPortalIH%2FShared%20Documents) requirements.

## Level Two

* 1. At the direction of the MRCC, the Level Two is required. All processes from Level One are included, however additional staffing may be required.
  2. (guidance, process for any other Level Two requirements)

## Level Three

* 1. At the direction of the MRCC, the Level Two is required. All processes from Level Two are included, however after-hours staffing may be required. Refer to the CDU SBAR *Standing-up after-hours Public Health Nursing response to communicable disease*
  2. (guidance, process for any other Level Three requirements)

Refer to Appendix for sample table to outline each level by each site in a geo-area.

## Specimen Collection Process

* 1. CDU notifies (program) if specimen testing for a specific client is required
  2. (Program) contacts the client for testing appointment and directs client to the measles specimen collection location (see Level One, Two and Three for any differences)
  3. Client calls into facility as directed by location signage, and (program admin) confirms client demographics.
  4. (HCP) explains the specimen collection process, ensures consent, and collects NP swab.
  5. (HCP) provides urine container and instructions to client on collection and return of specimen
  6. (HCP) ensures specimen is correctly labelled and transfers specimen to laboratory through the specimen pick-up process (see [Lab guidance](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/default/files/PDFS/dc-ipac-measles-lab-requirements-checklist-for-community-collections.pdf) for details)
  7. Client returns specimen to (location), places in (drop box), and texts/calls (program) to notify the specimen has been dropped off
  8. (HCP) checks that urine specimen is correctly labelled and transfers specimen to laboratory through the specimen pick-up process (see [lab guidance](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/default/files/PDFS/dc-ipac-measles-lab-requirements-checklist-for-community-collections.pdf) for details)

## Standing Down the Specimen Collection Location

* 1. Specimen collection site locations will stand down at the direction of the MRCC, with Medical Health Officer guidance.
  2. (Program) initiates stand-down activities.
  3. Debrief session scheduled to learn from experiences and check on team’s psychological health

**Appendix: Level Responses for Sites in (area)**

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| (Area) sites | **Able to Support Level 1 MHO-Directed Community Specimen Collection?**   * *Collection Available by appointment during regular business hours (8:30-4:30)* * *Extended hours and days may be available (if the collection location is a UPCC)*   *Dedicated collection nurse not required if appointments can be managed with baseline staffing* | **Able to Support Level 2 MHO-Directed Community Specimen Collection?**   * As for Level One with additional appointments during regular business hours * Extended Hours and days may be available if the collection location is a UPCC   Dedicated nurses may be required to meet demand | **Able to Support Level 3 MHO-Directed Community Specimen Collection?**   * As for Level Two with service expanded to evenings and weekends   A tent may be required to accommodate anticipated volume |
| (Site 1) | Yes/No | Yes/No | Yes/No |
| (Site 2) | Yes/No | Yes/No | Yes/No |
| (Site 3) | Yes/No | Yes/No | Yes/No |
| (Site 4) | Yes/No | Yes/No | Yes/No |