

# Should I Test For Measles?

## A Guide for California Healthcare Providers

While suspecting measles in your patient, immediately mask and isolate the patient per airborne precautions.\*

### STEP 1 – HISTORY

**In the 21 days prior to onset of illness, has patient had any of the following?**

- Known exposure to a person with measles?
- International travel, contact with an international traveler, or been to an international airport in the US?
- Visited a venue popular with international visitors?
- Resided in or visited a US community with measles cases?

*Current listings at [bit.ly/2JqBbMW](http://bit.ly/2JqBbMW)*

**If **NO** to all, measles very unlikely, testing not required.**



**If **YES** to any, continue**

### STEP 2 – EXAM

**Has the patient had a combination of...?**

- **FEVER**
  - And one or more of: **COUGH, CONJUNCTIVITIS, or RUNNY NOSE**
  - And **RASH**<sup>†</sup>
    - Red-brown macules or papules - may become confluent patches
    - Begins on face and progresses downwards to the rest of the body
    - Typically appears within a few days after other symptoms begin
- If no rash within 4 days after onset of illness, you may consult your local health department.



**If **YES****

### STEP 3

**CALL** your local health department to report illness and discuss testing.

**COLLECT** specimens for PCR testing.

- Urine (10-50 ml in sterile container) AND
- Dacron swab of throat (preferred) or nasopharynx in viral transport medium

**If **NO****

Measles unlikely, testing not required.

As needed, call your local health department for consultation.

**Local health department contact information: [bit.ly/LHD-Reporting](http://bit.ly/LHD-Reporting)**

\*Place patient in a negative pressure room when available; if not, examine the patient outside the facility or in a private room with the door closed; minimize the time patient spends in the facility. Other precautions apply.

<sup>†</sup>Immunization in last month with MMR or MMRV can be a cause of measles-like rash - check immunization history. Testing is not indicated if immunized against measles in last month and answer is no to all questions in Step 1.

