Measles Sample Shipping

PCR testing at the IDOH Laboratory can be completed on nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs (recommended) and throat swabs specimen types.

1. Be sure to properly label the specimen tube with at least the patient's name and date of collection.
2. Check the expiration date on the VTM tube to ensure product is acceptable and will continue to be acceptable once received at the IDOH laboratory.
3. After collection, all specimens should be stored at refrigerator temperature (2-8°C) until shipped. If longer storage is required, place specimens in a -70°C freezer (NEVER store, even temporarily, in a regular, -20°C freezer — this temperature will kill virus).
4. Specimens must be received at the lab within five days of collection if stored at refrigerated temperatures.

Methods to submit packages to IDOHL

- **Option 1 – Use STAT Courier**
  - STAT Courier is responsible for maintaining the package temperature
    - Canceled packages due to temperature deviations are rare
  - Samples must still be entered into LimsNet/have the appropriate paperwork
  - Regional sites are permitted to refuse improperly packaged submissions
- **Option 2 – Ship packages Third Party (FedEx, USPS, UPS, etc.)**
  - Sites can either use a pre-validated specific temperature packaging material and avoid temp checks upon arrival **or** use their own packaging which will have temperatures checked upon arrival
- **Option 3 – Bring packages to the IDOH Lab**
  - Package's temps will be checked when dropped off unless using the pre-validated packaging material
  - Sites are asked to bring in their coolers to the lab receiving area when dropping off
    - Temperature can increase within seconds of being out of the cooler

Pre-Validated Shipper (Refrigerated) Directions

Refrigerated samples (2-8°C)

Use the following shipping container with **two** of the specific ice packs listed below. If the container is received at the IDOHL within 24 hours of shipping, then the temperature will be deemed acceptable.

- A shipping container that matches VWR item 15713-700 (multi-purpose dome style foam container assembled in corrugated carton)
- Interior dimensions: 8L×5⅞W×4¼"H
- Exterior dimensions: 11L×9W×7¼"H
  - Thickness = 1.5”
  - Use two frozen ice packs in the shipping container above that match VWR item 89049-980
  - Dimensions: 11.4×10.1×3.8 cm (4½×4×1½")
  - Weight: 425 g (15 oz.)