



Requirements and Capabilities of US Public Health Laboratories Experiencing Measles Outbreaks

May 2026

APHL VPD Reference Centers for Measles Testing

All specimens should be directed to the public health laboratory in the patient’s state of residence. Commercial laboratories should not send to the APHL VPD Reference Centers unless otherwise directed. APHL VPD Reference Centers include:

- California VRDL (CA SPHL)
- Minnesota Department of Health Public Health Lab (MN SPHL)
- New York State Wadsworth Center
- Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene (WI SPHL)

These laboratories may:

- Perform genotyping
- Perform MeVA real-time assay or working to bring up the test.

More Information

- [APHL VPD Reference Center Testing Resources Guide](#)
- [Measles Commercial Laboratory Guidance](#)
- [APHL Vaccine Preventable Disease webpage](#)

State-level Requirements for Measles Submission

State	Assigned Reference Center	Measles Virus PCR/Serology Testing Available?	For Measles Vaccine Assay (to distinguish vaccine strain)	Notification of positive result protocol	Timeframe for Shipment of Specimens
Arizona	CA SPHL	Yes	Performs in-house	Any suspected case should be reported to the AZ Department of Health Services Communicable Disease Division within 24 hours and prior to testing; Notification of positive results sent via ELR	Weekly, submission of positive specimens is required in state statute Within 24 hours after obtaining the positive test result.
California	CA SPHL	Yes	Performs in-house	Any suspected case should be reported to the Communicable Disease Branch of the local health department immediately by phone prior to testing; Notification of positive results sent via ELR	Within 48 hours of a positive result

State	Assigned Reference Center	Measles Virus PCR/Serology Testing Available?	For Measles Vaccine Assay (to distinguish vaccine strain)	Notification of positive result protocol	Timeframe for Shipment of Specimens
Florida	NY Wadsworth	Yes	Sends to assigned reference center	Any initial suspicion or laboratory test order receipt should be notified via phone/fax notification the Florida Health Department immediately	Weekly; Health department will initiate request via phone call upon receipt of a positive result
North Carolina	WI SPHL	Yes	Sends to assigned Reference Center; Validation in progress	Any suspected case should be reported to the local health department immediately by phone and before testing. Subsequently, to the NC Department of Health and Human Services Communicable Disease Branch .	Weekly submission of PCR positives; no need for serology submission
North Dakota	MN SPHL	Limited capacity	Sends to assigned Reference Center	Report results to ND Health and Human Services immediately	Weekly submission of PCR positives; Submission of positive specimen is required in state statute
South Carolina	NY Wadsworth	Yes	Sends to assigned Reference Center, validation in progress	Any suspected case should be reported to the regional health department immediately by phone. Positive results should be reported via ELR within 24 hours.	Within 24 hours of positive result early in an outbreak; Submission of positive specimens is required in state statute
Texas	MN SPHL	Yes	Sends to assigned Reference Center, validation in progress	Positive results reported into the Department of State Health Services NEDSS reporting application and should be called in immediately ; the health department will reach out to request specimens	Within 48 hours of positive result
Utah	CA SPHL	Yes	Uses sequence data to obtain vaccine strain; performs in house	Any suspected case should be reported within 24 hours by phone and before testing; state laboratory will reach out to coordinate specimen submission	Within 48 hours of positive result; submission of positive specimens is required in state statute
Washington	MN SPHL	Yes	Sends to assigned Reference Center, validation in progress	Any suspected case should be reported immediately to Local Health Jurisdiction by phone	Within 48 hours of positive results early in an outbreak; Submission of positive specimens is required in state statute

*Additional questions about results reporting can be directed to the [Epi-on-Call Phone Numbers](#) maintained by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists.