

Provider Information for Measles Clinical Presentation and Testing

Overview: Measles is a highly contagious viral illness spread by measles virus (Paramyxoviridae family). It spreads via respiratory droplets and airborne transmission.

Incubation Period: 7 to 14 days (average 10-12 days) from exposure to initial symptoms. Patients are contagious from 4 days before to 4 days after rash onset.

Symptoms/Disease Progression: 2 main stages

Stage	1. <i>Prodromal Stage (or "Catarrhal" Stage):</i> marks the beginning of noticeable symptoms	2. <i>Exanthematous Stage (or Rash Stage):</i> characterized by the appearance of the measles rash
Duration	2 to 4 days	Approximately 5 to 6 days
Symptoms	<p>High fever (often exceeding 104°F/40°C)</p> <p>The 3 C's: cough, coryza, conjunctivitis</p> <p>Koplik spots: These are small, white spots with bluish-white centers that appear on the inner lining of the cheeks (buccal mucosa). They are a hallmark sign of measles.</p>	<p>Maculopapular rash: A red, blotchy rash that begins on the face, typically at the hairline, and spreads downward to the neck, trunk, and extremities. Not usually itchy.</p> <p>The rash may become confluent (the spots merge together).</p> <p>Fever often spikes further during this stage.</p>

Picture Examples of Measles Rash



Picture Examples of Koplik Spots



When to Highly Suspect Measles:

- Unvaccinated individuals with compatible symptoms
- Patients with known exposure to a measles case.
- Patients with fever, cough, coryza, and/or conjunctivitis, followed by a rash.
- Patients with Koplik spots.
- Patients with a history of recent travel to areas with measles outbreaks.

What Should You Do if Suspect Measles in a Patient?

1. *Isolate:* mask patient and place on airborne precautions in a negative air pressure room.
2. *Test:*

	Quest	Florida Department of Health	JHS In-House
Indication	Rule-out active infection; excludes urine testing	Rule-out active infection; includes urine testing	Determine pre-existing immunity; do not use to rule-out active infection
Test Name to Order	Miscellaneous Test x2:	Measles Panel DOH	Measles Ab IgG
Tests Included	1. Measles Antibodies (IgG, IgM) to Quest 2. Measles Virus Qual PCR Note: Lab is working on combining both tests into 1 order, document will be updated once new order name available	Measles IgG Measles IgM Measles PCR	Measles IgG
Specimens To Be Collected	1 Tiger top tube 1 nasopharyngeal swab in UTM	1 urine sample in sterile container 1 Tiger top tube 1 nasopharyngeal swab	1 Tiger top tube
Pre-approval Required	No	Yes; patient's provider should contact Miami-Dade FDOH at 305-470-5660	No

3. *Report:* contact Infection Prevention and Control immediately; 786-266-0624