

## Memorandum

To: Kansas Health Facilities  
From: Kansas Department of Health & Environment, Health & Environmental Laboratories  
Subject: Methodology for testing Measles and Mumps  
Date: May 8, 2013

The Kansas Health & Environmental Laboratories (KHEL) is pleased to announce advancement in our viral diagnostic testing.

Effective May 15, 2013, the detection of measles and mumps will now be performed using a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) methodology, in lieu of cell culturing. This PCR procedure will allow an increased sensitivity and rapid detection (0-3 days), leading to enhanced patient care and a more efficient response during outbreak situations.

PCR results will be reported as:

- RNA detected, or
- RNA not detected

The specimen collection, kits, and shipping requirements remain the same. As a reminder, specimen collection guidelines are listed below:

- Measles
  - Throat (and/or nasopharyngeal swab) within 3 days of rash onset
    - *Ideally, collect  $\leq 7$  days and no more than 10 days after rash onset*
- Mumps
  - Buccal or throat swab collected in Viral Transport Media (VTM)
    - Preferred specimen if collected within 3 days of parotitis
    - Do not collect if more than 10 days after parotitis

### Shipping

- Use Dacron or synthetic swab placed in Viral Transport Media (VTM)
- Keep all specimens at 4°C until shipment
- Ship as soon as possible on cold packs

Complete disease investigation guidelines can be found at  
[http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/disease\\_investigation\\_guidelines.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/disease_investigation_guidelines.htm).

As always, contact the epidemiology hotline (1-877-427-7317) prior to specimen submission. Suspect or confirmed cases of measles and mumps should be reported by telephone within 4 hours in accordance with K.S.A. 65-118 and K.S.A. 65-128.

Please contact KHEL Molecular Testing at 785-291-3387 for any questions regarding measles or mumps testing.