



MEMORANDUM

Date: 6/27/2025

Re: Measles Testing Algorithm for Clinicians

The purpose of this communication is to provide clinicians with a recommended testing algorithm for suspected acute measles and measles immunity check based on the laboratory tests offered at the BCCDC Public Health Laboratory (BCCDC PHL).

The BCCDC PHL has developed a Measles Testing Algorithm for Clinicians flowchart which is provided on the second page of this communication. Please feel free to use the information in this memo for further distribution within your community of practice.

Please note that the following specimen types are approved for measles testing at the BCCDC PHL. For more information on measles specimen collection containers and collection guidance please consult the BCCDC eLab Handbook at <http://www.elabhandbook.info/PHSA/Default.aspx>.

Test	Specimen	Container
Measles NAT	Throat	COPAN red-top with Universal Transport Media
Measles NAT	Nasopharyngeal swab	COPAN red-top with Universal Transport Media
Measles NAT	Throat/Nose Self-Collected swab	COPAN red-top with Universal Transport Media
Measles NAT	Urine	Sterile container
Measles Serology	Clotted blood	SST (gold top) blood tube

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have any questions.

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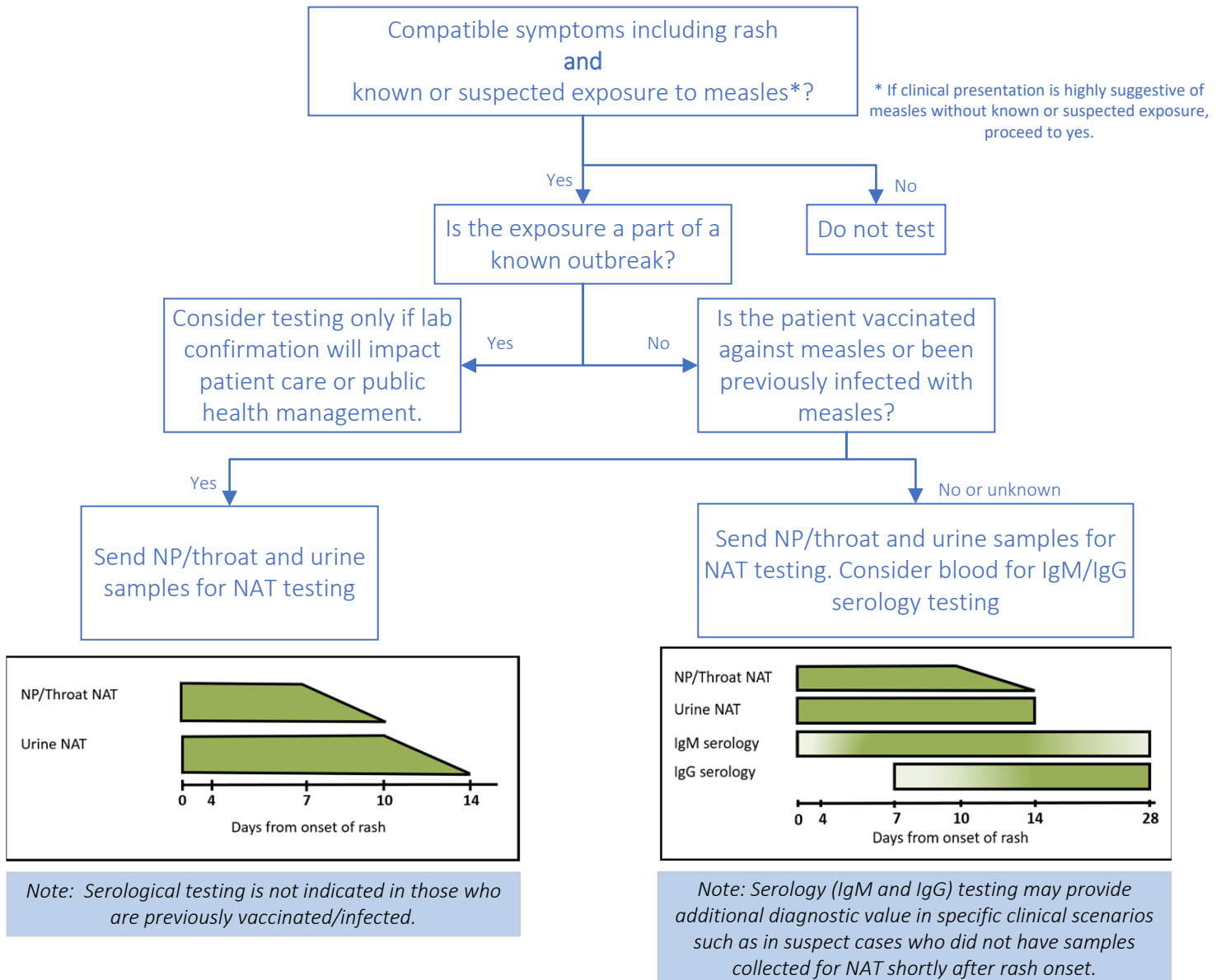
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Measles Testing Algorithm for Clinicians

Suspected Acute Measles



What if the measles virus is detected in a sample?

Additional testing to distinguish between measles vaccine and wild-type virus will be performed and reported on positive NAT samples.

Immunity to Measles Check

Known or suspected exposure to measles with unknown immune status **and** a contraindication to the MMR vaccine?

OR

Healthcare worker with exposure to measles **and** who does not have a history of vaccination with 2 doses of a measles-containing vaccine, a history of measles infection, or a birthdate prior to January 1, 1957

Yes

Send blood for IgG serology testing

No

Do not test

Note: Measles IgG testing **should not** be routinely performed to determine immune status. When immune status cannot be ascertained, immunization with a measles containing vaccine is preferred.

For additional information on measles testing, please consult the resources below:

BCCDC Measles Update Memo (May 29, 2025): http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/BCCDC_PHL_Memo_Measles_Update_29May2025.pdf

BCCDC Self-Collection for Measles NAT Testing Memo (June 19, 2025): http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/BCCDC_PHL_Memo_Self_Collection_for_Measles_NAT_Testing_19June2025.pdf

BCCDC Measles Guidance: <http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Epid/CD%20Manual/Chapter%201%20-%20CDC/Measles.pdf>