

Report all SUSPECT measles cases immediately to the Alaska Section of Epidemiology.

- ✓ Consider measles in the differential diagnosis of patients with fever and rash:

	Yes	No	Comments
A) What is the highest temperature recorded?		°F	Fever onset date: ____/____/____
B) Does the rash have any of the following characteristics?			Rash onset date: ____/____/____
Was the rash preceded by one of the symptoms listed in (C) by 2-4 days?			Measles rashes are red, maculopapular rashes that may become confluent – they typically start at hairline, then face, and spreads rapidly down body.
Did fever overlap rash?			
Did rash start on head or face?			
C) Does the patient have any of the following?			Rash onset typically occurs 2-4 days after first symptoms of fever (≥101°F) and one or more of the 3 C's (cough, conjunctivitis, or coryza).
Cough			
Runny nose (coryza)			
Red eyes (conjunctivitis)			
D) Unimmunized or unknown immune status?			Dates of measles vaccine: #1 ____/____/____ #2 ____/____/____
E) Exposure to a known or suspected measles case?			Date and place of exposure:
F) Travel outside of Alaska in past 21 days?			

- ✓ Measles should be highly suspected if you answered YES to at least one item in B and C, PLUS a YES in D or E or F. **IMMEDIATELY:**

- Mask and isolate the patient (in negative air pressure room when possible) AND
- Contact the Alaska Section of Epidemiology (AK-SOE) at (907)269-8000 or 800-478-0084 (after hours) to report the suspect case and arrange testing at the Alaska State Virology Laboratory in Fairbanks.

- ✓ Collect the following specimens

- Throat or Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab for measles (rubeola) PCR (preferred respiratory specimen)**
 - Swab the throat or posterior nasal passage with a Dacron™ or rayon swab and place the swab in 2–3 ml of viral transport medium. Store specimen in refrigerator and transport on ice.
- Urine for measles (rubeola) PCR (if patient presents > 7 days after rash onset)**
 - Collect at least 50 ml of clean voided urine in a sterile container and store in refrigerator.
- Optional: Serum for measles (rubeola) serologic testing (may be performed only in conjunction with PCR sample testing from suspected measles cases)**
 - Collect 7-10 mL of blood in SST (serum separator tubes – tiger top, marble top, or yellow top without additives; 1 mL minimum. Centrifuge to separate serum and store in refrigerator.

Measles PCR testing is only available thru the Alaska State Virology Laboratory in Fairbanks, not commercial reference laboratories. Address: 1051 Sheenjek Dr. Fairbanks, AK 99775, PH 907-371-1000

If you have questions about this assessment or collection and transport of specimens, please call the AK-SOE.

Adapted from a resource by the Washington State Department of Health, DOH Pub 348-490.

