



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

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SCOTT M. SHONE, PhD, HCLD (ABB) • Laboratory Director, State
Laboratory of Public Health

Memo

To: NC Local Health Directors, NC Local Health Department Laboratory Managers

From: Scott M. Shone, PhD, HCLD(ABB)

Date: February 25, 2026

Re: Distribution of Specimen Collection Materials for Measles

On Thursday, February 26, 2026, the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) will begin distributing new specimen collection materials for measles testing to all NC Local Health Departments (LHD). Collection supplies are intended to help prepare NC LHDs to submit specimens to NCSLPH during a potential measles event in their jurisdiction. These materials are also intended to replace any existing inventory of viral transport media (VTM) that expired on January 23, 2026.

Specimen collection materials will be delivered to LHD laboratories during business hours via the NC Department of Administration (DOA) Medical Courier. LHDs that do not use the NC DOA Medical Courier will receive supplies via UPS. Please contact NCSLPH Customer Service (919-733-3937) if materials are not received by close of business on March 3, 2026.

Each LHD will receive:

- 5 Ultrafine Puritan flock swabs for nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collection (product #3317-U)
- 5 Tubes of Remel M4RT Viral Transport Media (product #R12700)

Those LHDs involved in the response to recent cases of measles in NC will receive additional collection supplies.

Provided materials may be stored at room temperature prior to specimen collection. **Please dispose of expired supplies. No expired swabs or viral transport media should be used for specimen collection. Specimens received in expired VTM will be rejected.** Visit the [NCSLPH guidance document](#) for more information on measles specimen collection, storage, and transport.

For any questions, please contact NCSLPH Customer Service at 919-733-3937.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH • STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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