Memorandum - Micro #249

To: UNC Health System Attending Physicians, Faculty Practice Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

From: Melissa B. Miller, Ph.D.
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Date: July 10, 2025

Subject: New Measles PCR test

Beginning July 10, 2025, UNC Medical Center (UNCMC) McLendon Clinical Laboratories will offer Measles RT-PCR testing on oropharyngeal (OP) and nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs (EPIC: LAB115865). This test is only available for symptomatic patients. Testing of asymptomatic patients (even those exposed) is not indicated. Testing will be performed daily, Monday through Friday, and once per weekend.

Oropharyngeal swabs should be collected using the red-capped double swab (Infor #053686). If the swab will arrive at UNCMC within 24 hours of collection, the red-capped swab can be sent directly. For ≥ 24 hours, swabs must be placed in universal transport media or viral transport media prior to transport. Affiliate laboratories should place the red-capped swab in UTM/VTM prior to submitting to UNCMC.

OP swab (Infor #053686)

NP swabs should be collected using flocked swabs and transported in UTM (Infor # 050750).

All swabs/transport devices should be stored and transported at 4°C and received within 3 days of collection. Additional information is available on the test webpage.

Questions can be directed to the Molecular Microbiology Lab at 984-974-1820 or Dr. Melissa Miller at Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu.