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TO: Local Health Departments, Hospitals, Clinics, Laboratories, and other Providers

FROM: Dr. Joshua Geltz, PhD
Division Chief, Division of Laboratories

DATE: March 28, 2024

SUBJECT: IDPH Measles Supplies Ordering and IDPH Easter Weekend Testing

The Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Laboratories, transitioned to online supply ordering through an Electronic Test Ordering and Reporting System called ETOR. All supplies for measles must be ordered through this process. If your facility has not already enrolled in ETOR, please contact dph.labs.dmg@illinois.gov.

Collection and shipping supplies are currently being limited to local health departments and approved congregate testing sites, such as shelters. The required collection materials for measles testing are nasopharyngeal swabs (preferred specimen type), biohazard bags and universal/viral transport media. Oropharyngeal swabs are also acceptable specimen sources. Specimens must be kept at 2-8 degrees Celsius after collection and while in transit, thus coolers and ice packs are required.

IDPH Chicago Laboratory will be performing Measles PCR testing on 3/30 and 3/31 on authorized specimens. Specimens can be delivered to 8:00 AM-4:00 PM on Saturday and 8:00 AM-12:00 PM on Sunday using the back entrance. The IDPH Springfield Laboratory will be performing Measles PCR testing on 3/30 only. Springfield deliveries must be pre-arranged with the laboratory. Specimens are not to be shipped to either of the IDPH Laboratories for weekend delivery unless pre-arranged with the laboratory and special instructions are provided to maintain specimen integrity.

For questions or concerns, please contact dph.lab.shipping@illinois.gov for questions.