



**PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION**  
**PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE**  
**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**



Vol. 5 No. 42

*Division of Vaccines and Immunization*  
*Expanded Program on Immunization*  
*Measles Surveillance in the Americas*

*Weekly Bulletin for the week*  
*ending 23 October 1999*

**COLLECTION OF LABORATORY SAMPLES FOR MEASLES VIRUS ISOLATION**

**Samples for viral isolation from suspected measles cases:**

- In outbreak situations, urine samples should be taken from the first 5-10 cases of the outbreak. If attempts to isolate virus are unsuccessful, then additional urine samples should be taken from new cases as they occur. Urine samples should also be taken from cases that do not occur in the same municipality or district.
- When sporadic cases occur (dispersed geographically and/or in time), urine samples should be taken from every case at the first opportunity.
- Whenever urine samples cannot be taken (i.e. in some young children), a wipe of the nose and throat with a sterile swab (nasopharyngeal swab) should be taken instead.
- Ideally, samples for virus isolation should be taken within 1-3 days after rash onset, and no more than 5 days after rash onset. However, for sporadic cases, because there may be limited opportunities to take the sample, samples can be taken up to 7 days after rash onset.
- Samples for virus isolation should be shipped to the laboratory indicated in your country as soon as possible.
- The national laboratory responsible for managing measles specimens will test (or forward to a reference laboratory for testing) the specimens of those cases with measles serum IgM positive results.

Ideally, only half of the sample should be used for viral isolation. The other half should be stored at minus 40- 70C° as a backup. In case of contamination or other technical problems with the samples tested.

***To increase the sensitivity of the surveillance system, measles and rubella surveillance should be integrated!!!***  
**Instructions for handling of laboratory specimens will be published in the next bulletin.**

Table No. 1  
 Classification of Suspected Measles Cases  
 for the period: 99/01 - 99/42

Region	Country	Suspected Cases Reported	Under Investigation	Discarded			Confirmed Cases 1999			Confirmed Cases 1998	
				Rubella	Dengue	Other/Unknown	Clinic.	Lab.	Total	Week 42	Total
AND	BOL	1,513	150	2	0	220	16	1125	1141	534	1,004
	COL	999	14	23	17	910	25	10	35	60	104
	ECU	487	10	171	2	304	0	0	0	0	0
	PER	240	14	40	2	182	2	0	2	6	10
	VEN	333	10	43	10	270	0	0	0	4	4
BRA	BRA	22,553	6,433	4,020	0	11,418	411	271	682	1,882	2,930
	CAP	176	10	0	0	136	27	3	30	0	20
	ELS	78	0	6	2	70	0	0	0	0	0
	GUT	167	11	87	0	69	0	0	0	1	1
	HON	137	0	64	21	52	0	0	0	0	0
	NIC	769	0	372	4	393	0	0	0	0	0
	PAN	97	25	8	5	59	0	0	0	0	0
	CAR	247	85	16	11	135	0	0	0	1	1
	LAC	979	371	...	...	608	0	0	0	0	0
	DOR	1,587	165	160	0	1,150	2	110	112	2	15
FGU	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
GUA	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
HAI	13	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	3	3	
MAR	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
PUR	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	
MEX	MEX	40	16	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	0
	NOA	9	...	...	...	...	...	9	9	14	12
SOC	USA	75	...	...	...	...	...	75	75	75	89
	ARG	788	125	18	...	416	0	229	229	6,705	10,229
	CHI	211	17	14	0	151	0	29	29	0	6
PAR	244	2	11	7	224	0	0	0	67	70	
URU	34	0	0	0	0	0	34	34	1	4	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>31,776</b>	<b>7,458</b>	<b>5,067</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>16,792</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>1,895</b>	<b>2,378</b>	<b>9,355</b>	<b>14,504</b>

... No report received

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Table No. 2

Measles Suspect Cases Under Investigation for the period: 99/01 - 99/42

Region	Country	Pending cases from 1998	Cumulative 1999	Week of Rash Onset														
				1-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17-20	21-24	25-28	29-32	33-36	37	38	39	40	41	42
AND	BOL	0	150	...	...	...	8	13	...	7	27	45	3	14	22	10	1	...
	COL	0	14	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	4	3	1	0
	ECU	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	4	0	...	...
	PER	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	11	2	...	...	0	0	...
	VEN	0	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	2	2	0	0	...
BRA	BRA	0	6,433	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	CAP	0	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	ELS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	GUT	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	...	8	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	HON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAR	NIC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PAN	0	25	...	1	1	0	1	6	1	14	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	CAR	0	85	2	2	3	3	2	13	10	11	10	5	9	11	4	...	...
	LAC	0	371	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	...	...	...
	DOR	1	165	4	15	0	3	35	11	...	23	72	...	...	...	...	...	...
	FGU	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	GUA	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	HAI	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	MAR	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	PUR	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
MEX	MEX	0	16	0	2	2	3	5	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	NOA	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	USA	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SOC	ARG	0	125	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	CHI	0	17	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	0
	PAR	0	2	0	0	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	URU	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL		1	7,458	10	21	6	17	57	31	30	83	154	14	28	45	19	3	1

... No report received through the Measles Elimination Surveillance System

Table No. 3

Measles Surveillance Indicators for the period: 99/01 - 99/42

Region	Country	% Sites Reporting Weekly	% Cases Investigated ≤48 Hours	% Cases W/Complete Inves. Form	% Cases W/ Adequate Sample	% Lab. Results ≤7 Days
AND	BOL	...	99	84	90	56
	COL	87	83	57	92	84
	ECU	94	94	49	93	85
	PER	100	98	59	100	94
	VEN	88	91	84	98	87
BRA	BRA	44	68	16	63	0
	CAP	90	100	0	0	...
	ELS	100	94	31	96	75
	GUT	100	93	41	88	41
	HON	99	99	97	99	75
CAR	NIC	99	97	77	99	91
	PAN	100	93	6	85	74
	CAR	97	96	49	77	100
	LAC	98	...	...	...	...
	DOR	100	97	48	97	21
	FGU	...	...	...	...	...
	GUA	...	...	...	...	...
	HAI	94	100	0	...	...
	MAR	...	...	...	...	...
	PUR	...	...	...	...	...
MEX	MEX	94	93	80	93	42
	NOA	...	...	...	...	...
	USA	...	...	...	...	...
SOC	ARG	58	...	3	91	92
	CHI	100	97	60	91	83
	PAR	99	99	16	94	20
	URU	...	100	44	100	100
TOTAL		81	89	51	86	52

... No report received