# Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000

**Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders**

**Renee Mallory, RN, BSN, Secretary of Health**

**Jennifer Dillaha, MD, Director**


## Guidance for Measles Specimen Collection and Submission

Contact Outbreak Response (501-661-2381) as soon as Measles is suspected and before submitting specimens to the State Public Health Laboratory. After hours, please call 1-800-554-5738. Once authorization has been obtained from Outbreak Response, the Miscellaneous Examination Form (HL-06) will be provided for specimen submission.

**Test Request Forms:** ALL samples must have a complete Miscellaneous Examination Form (HL-06).

- Complete all required fields.
  - Must have the submitting facility's name and correct phone & fax number for results.
  - Requestor must be a licensed medical practitioner (i.e. physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, etc.)
- Ensure the **Patient Name** and **Date of Birth** on form is correct and **matches** the specimen tubes.
  - Specimens will be rejected if information on form does not match specimen label.
- Place form in the outer pocket of the specimen bag.
  - **Do not** place the paperwork inside the bag with the specimen.

**Specimen Collection:**

1. Nasopharyngeal swab (preferred) or throat swab (acceptable).
   a. Swabs can be synthetic tip, such as nylon, polyester or dacron with a plastic shaft. **Do NOT** use cotton swabs or swabs with a wooden or aluminum shaft.
2. Place swab in 2-3 ml viral transport medium (do not allow to dry out) and break off at score line.
3. Label specimen tube with two unique identifiers (i.e. full name and date of birth)
   a. Specimens will be rejected if identifiers do not match request form.
4. Refrigerate specimens (2-8°C) before shipment.
   a. Ship as soon as possible. Labs must receive specimen within 72 hours of collection date/time.

**Specimen Shipping:** Transport specimens at (2-8°C) or (35-45°F) with cold packs. Specimens must be shipped as Category B to SPHL.

- Ship to: Arkansas Dept. of Health-Public Health Laboratory ATTN: Molecular, 201 South Monroe St. Little Rock, AR 72205.
- Package as a Category B specimen and bring to the nearest county Local Health Unit (LHU) for shipment on courier.

**LHUs cannot accept unpackaged specimens.**

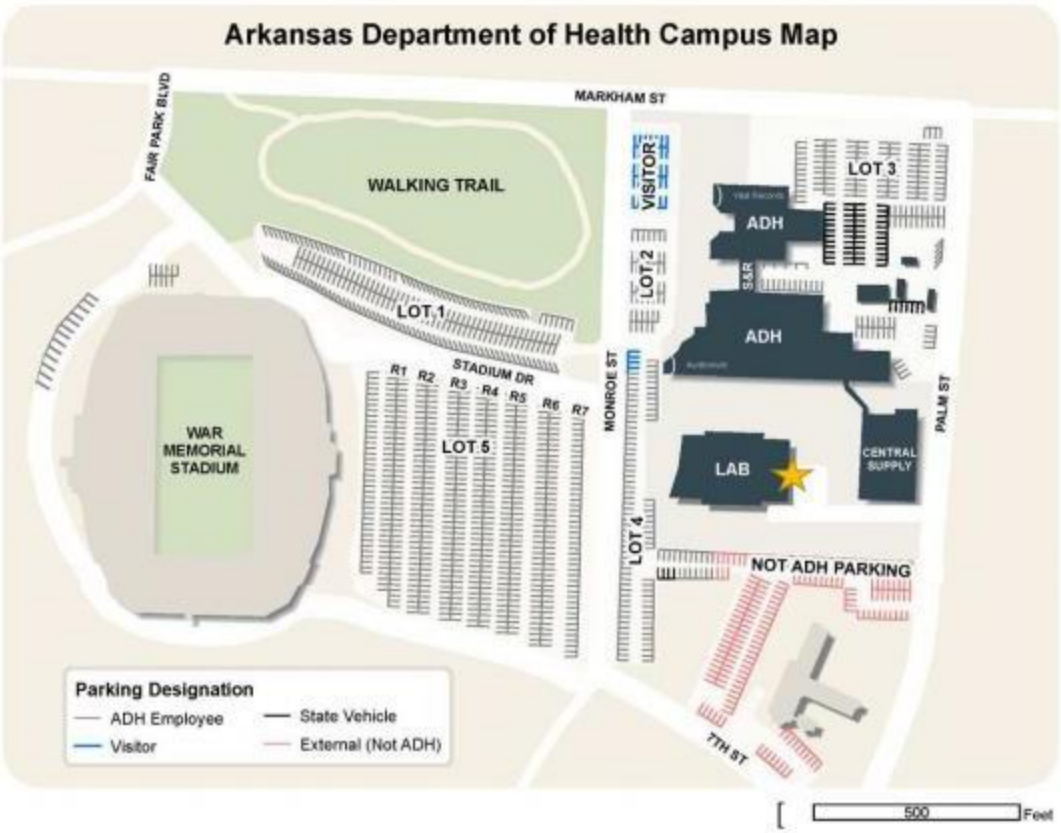
**Contacts:**

- Outbreak Response: 501-661-2381 and/or ADH.ORSNurses@arkansas.gov
- SPHL: ADH.Lab.QA@arkansas.gov

# State Public Health Lab Delivery Instructions

The address is 201 S Monroe St, Little Rock, AR 72205. However, the **receiving area is off Palm St.**

On Palm St there is a sign that reads "Public Health Laboratory Receiving" – drive down the ramp. Once parked, walk to the steel door, press the buzzer next to the steel door to be allowed into the building. At the drop off window inside, drop off samples and sign off what was delivered.

The star on the map below denotes the Specimen Receiving area at the back of the SPHL.

**Specimen Receiving Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-7:00pm.**