Collecting respiratory specimens for measles testing:

**Synthetic (e.g., Dacron or flocked) swabs with plastic shafts** should be used to collect respiratory specimens. **Do not use cotton swabs or wooden handles.**

Place swab in 3 ml **liquid viral transport media** (VTM) or universal transport media intended for use with viruses. Collection kits used for influenza or respiratory viral panel testing are also appropriate. **Do not use ESwabs or other bacterial media** (e.g. LQ Stuart, Amies).

Specimens should be shipped according to UN 3373 Category B regulations, including **leak-proof, cushioned** packaging.