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.