

Measles Vaccine Assay (MeVA) Training

April 13-14, 2026

California Department of Health Laboratory | Richmond, California

Presented by APHL and the Vaccine Preventable Diseases Reference Center at the California Department of Public Health Viral and Rickettsial Diseases Laboratory

DESCRIPTION

Measles was declared eliminated in the US in 2000. Since then, international travel to areas where the virus remains endemic coupled with communities with low vaccination rates have led to hundreds of infections in the US. While measles vaccination is an important tool to curb an outbreak, up to 5% of individuals vaccinated can develop clinically indistinguishable symptoms from measles infection. Most routinely used measles virus rRT-PCR assays cannot distinguish between wild-type and vaccine; therefore, in order to quickly distinguish between wild-type and vaccine rash, the CDC MeVA assay can be employed to rapidly differentiate between the two.

This in-depth workshop will provide laboratorians with the tools to perform the measles vaccine assay (MeVA) and correctly interpret its results. The workshop is comprised of didactic lectures and hands-on laboratory exercises covering all components of the assay. Sessions focusing on use cases of MeVA, results interpretation and application will be included.

AUDIENCE

This course is intended for intermediate-level public health laboratorians working at the bench in the molecular or virology laboratory who will perform molecular measles testing.

OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the program, the participant will be able to:

- Describe the different molecular test methods available for the detection and differentiation of measles virus;
- Explain the pre-analytical, analytic and post-analytic components of measles vaccine assay
- Perform all components of MeVA using appropriate biosafety procedures;
- Discuss how the MeVA fits into the overall measles testing algorithm, including appropriate use cases

APPLY NOW

Only completed applications received by January 9, 2026, will be considered. Application does not guarantee acceptance. If you are unable to complete the application online, email alisa.bochnowski@aphl.org or phone 240.485.2758 for assistance.

Public health applicants must have approval from their state or local Laboratory Director to apply. Applicants will be selected according to the degree to which the applicant's job description, experience, and responsibilities are consistent with the prerequisites. Priority will be given for one applicant per public health laboratory, with a second person considered on a space-available basis.

Level of Instruction:

- **INTERMEDIATE:** some basic knowledge is required; for the experienced staff technologist with some years of experience.

Travel

Travel costs for this workshop are being offered at no charge to participants; all travel and logistical details will be provided upon acceptance into the workshop. DO NOT make any of your own travel arrangements. Some states have lengthy travel approval processes, so it is important to begin the process as soon as possible.

FACULTY

- Jill K. Hacker, CDPH
- Rick Berumen III, CDPH

ACCESSIBILITY

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals seeking special accommodations must email a request to alisa.bochnowski@aphl.org at least three weeks prior to the workshop's start date.

By registering for this event, you are consenting to have your information shared with APHL event collaborators, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Public Health Laboratories. We will not, in any circumstances, share your information with other individuals or organizations without your permission, including corporations or individuals, except when applicable by law. We do not sell, communicate or divulge your information to any mailing lists.

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AGENDA

Day 1 | Monday, April 13th

- 9:00 am Welcome and Introductions
- 9:15 am Safety Orientation in the Training Laboratory
- 9:30 am Course Pre-Test
- 10:00 am Lecture: Why MeVA?
- 11:00 am Break
- 11:15 am Lecture: Assay Overview and QuantStudio 5 Programming
- 12:15 pm Lunch (APHL provided)
- 1:30 pm Laboratory: PCR Setup
- 2:45 pm Break
- 3:00 pm Laboratory: QS5 Software Demonstration
- 4:00 pm Group Discussion
- 4:30 pm Adjourn

Day 2 | Tuesday, April 14th

- 9:00 am Results Retrieval and Analysis
- 10:30 am Break
- 10:45 am Lecture: Assay Interpretation—Pitfalls and When to Retest
- 12:00 pm Lunch (APHL provided)
- 1:00 pm Lecture: Epidemiology Perspectives on MeVA Utilization
- 2:30 pm Post-Test and Course Evaluation
- 3:30 pm Adjourn