



# Monkeypox Testing

## Instructions for Specimen Submission For Healthcare Clinicians and Laboratorians

**NOTE:** Specimens will ONLY be accepted for testing at the Laboratory Response Network (LRN) laboratory with **prior approval** from the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH).

### Report suspect cases to the OSDH:

- Individuals who meet any of the epidemiological criteria and/or have a new, clinically compatible rash lesion should be considered for monkeypox testing pending consultation and review with the OSDH / Acute Disease Service (ADS).
- If monkeypox is a clinical consideration, call the OSDH Epi-on-Call line at **(405) 426-8710** or **1-800-234-5963** for case consultation and review.
- The OSDH/ADS may recommend testing for monkeypox. **Specimens being sent to the LRN laboratory should be collected ONLY at the direction of an OSDH epidemiologist.**

### Specimen Collection and Storage:

- Within one hour of collection, keep specimens frozen at -4.0°F (-20°C) or below while awaiting transport.
- Ensure proper infection control practices and procedures when performing specimen collection. See current CDC Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) recommendations at <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/infection-control-healthcare.html>

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Disposable protective latex or vinyl gloves (sterile gloves not required)
- Disposable protective gowns
- N-95 masks or higher
- Face shield or eyewear

### Materials Needed:

- Alcohol wipes (Multiple)
- Dry Swabs (4): sterile dry polyester or Dacron.
- Separate (individual) sterile containers for each swab.  
**Do not add or store the swabs in viral or universal transport media.** (4)
- Sealed biohazard bags (4)
- Parafilm (Multiple)
- Leak-proof (sealed) secondary receptacle bag
- Rigid or strong outer packaging (i.e., cooler, cardboard box) to ship frozen
- Ice packs

### Specimen Collection Procedure

*Note: Avoid activities that could re-suspend dried material from lesions, e.g., use of portable fans, dry dusting, sweeping, or vacuuming should be avoided during collection.*

- **IDENTIFY TWO (2) TO THREE (3) LESIONS ONLY** per client to sample, preferably from different locations on the body and/or with differencing appearances.  
**(A total of four (4) swabs should be collected.)**

## ▶ **COLLECT THE SAMPLE:**

1. Wear PPE.
2. Complete Consent for Service Form.
3. Sanitize lesion with an alcohol wipe, allow to dry.
4. The recommended specimen type is material collected from the surface of a lesion or crust from a healing lesion. CDC recommends that two to three lesions per patient be swabbed.
5. For some individuals, the lesions may not be overtly visible (such as within the oral cavity or within the rectum), therefore clinicians should perform a thorough evaluation including a full body skin, oral, genital, and rectal examination to identify appropriate lesions for sampling.
6. Swab the surface of the lesion **vigorously** to collect adequate DNA with a sterile polyester or Dacron swab.
  - a. Per updates from CDC ([CDCHAN-00471](#)) it is not necessary to de-roof or lance the lesion before swabbing.
7. Place swab into sterile screw top container.
  - a. Break off the swab, if necessary, or place entire swab in container and secure lid.
8. Label the containers as outlined below.
9. **Repeat Steps 5-6 for subsequent lesion/s.** (Reminder, DO NOT add any liquid or store in viral or universal transport media.)
10. **At this point you should have 4 swabs from 2-3 lesions.**
11. Doff PPE.
12. Document collection and notify ADS On-Call Epidemiologist of collection sites for submitted swabs.

## ▶ **LABEL each container with:**

1. Client first and last name.
2. Date of birth.
3. Lesion collection site (i.e., face, neck, left hand, etc.).
4. Date of collection.
5. Initials of collector.

### **Specimen Packaging for Transport:**

- ▶ Triple pack the specimens using the following procedure.
  1. Place specimen container in a leak-proof primary receptacle (i.e., sealed biohazard bag); multiple primary receptacles should be individually wrapped.
  2. Subsequently, place items in a leak-proof secondary receptacle (i.e., sealed bag).
  3. Finally, place items in rigid or strong outer packaging.
- ▶ Place a list of contents between the secondary receptacle and outer packaging.
- ▶ Specimens must be kept cold with cold ice packs. Several cold ice packs should be used to ensure specimens remain cold during transport.

### **PRIMARY (<24 hr TAT except weekends): Delivery to State OSDH Public Health Lab (Stillwater):**

- ▶ Courier picks up the specimen for testing and takes it directly to the OSDH Public Health Lab.
- ▶ Call (405) 564-7775 for courier pickup.
- ▶ If primary number does not answer, try (405) 406-3511.

### **BACKUP (<24 hour TAT except weekends) Delivery to State OSDH Warehouse:**

- ▶ The OSDH will pick up/transport specimen to the State OSDH Warehouse.
- ▶ Call (405) 250-4124 for courier pickup if Primary Facility does not answer.

### **Shipment Details**

- ▶ Maintain frozen temperature at a minimum (especially, if having to store sample overnight due to time constraints with FedEx).

If you have any questions related to monkeypox testing, you may contact the OSDH Acute Disease Service staff at [\(405\) 426-8710](#) or [\(800\) 234-5963](#).