



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

October 4, 2022

To: MS Clinical Laboratory Partners
From: Daphne Ware, PhD, Public Health Laboratory Director
Subject: Suspect Monkeypox Virus Infection Testing

Testing for monkeypox is available at the Mississippi Public Health Laboratory (MPHL). The MPHL will only accept specimens collected and transported dry. The submitted specimens will only be tested for non-variola Orthopoxvirus.

Specimen Requirements

Table with 2 columns: Requirement Category (Specimen Type, Collection, Storage and transport, Submission information) and Requirement Details.

Shipping Address	Mississippi Public Health Laboratory Attn: Molecular Diagnostics Section 570 East Woodrow Wilson Drive Jackson, MS 39216
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*One dry swab will be tested at the MPHL for non-variola Orthopoxvirus. The CDC may provide Monkeypox virus-specific testing on the second dry swab specimen if the first dry swab is positive at the MPHL.

Specimen Collection

To collect vesicular and pustular material:

1. Sanitize the patient's skin with an alcohol wipe and allow skin to dry.
2. For the each of the two dry swabs collected from each lesion, label a sterile container with the required information and remove swab from the outer sheath.
3. Collect cells from the lesion base by gently but firmly rolling the dry swab back and forth across the base of an uncapped lesion.
4. Place each swab into a separate sterile container and cap firmly. The container must NOT contain any transport media. The swab must be shipped dry.
5. Place both swab containers from the same lesion into a biohazard bag. Insert a completed MPHL Miscellaneous Laboratory Test Examination Request in the outside pocket of the biohazard bag. Seal the bag.
6. Repeat this process on different lesions.
7. After specimen collection is completed, all protective materials worn by the specimen collector (gloves, mask, gown, etc.) and all used sample collection materials (alcohol wipes, holders, etc.) must be placed in red biohazard bags and autoclaved or incinerated prior to disposal. **Thorough handwashing using soap** should be done immediately after specimen collection and following removal of personal protective equipment.
8. Specimens must be refrigerated or frozen within one hour of collection.

Infection Control Guidelines

Clinicians should employ a combination of standard, contact, and droplet precautions when assessing patients who present with fever and vesicular/pustular rash. Recommendations include wearing disposable gown and gloves for patient contact, using a NIOSH-certified N95 (or comparable) filtering disposable respirator that has been fit-tested, and using eye protection (e.g., face shields or goggles) if medical procedures may lead to splashing or spraying of a patient's body fluids. If a patient presenting for care at a hospital or other health care facility is suspected of having monkeypox, infection control personnel should be notified immediately.

For more information on infection prevention and control of monkeypox, please visit the CDC website for this situation at <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/outbreak/current.html> or the monkeypox main information page at <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html>.

Result Reporting

All testing results will be reported back to the submitting facility identified on the MPHL Miscellaneous Laboratory Test Examination Request provided with the specimens within 3 days of submission. All MPHL testing results will be reported as final. Any additional testing performed by the CDC will be reported back only to the Office of Epidemiology.