



**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-2020525-00575-ALT (Health Alert)
RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, PAs, and
Healthcare Providers – Statewide
Tuesday, May 25, 2022
SUBJECT: Suspect Monkeypox Virus Infection Testing

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

Clinicians should notify the MSDH Office of Epidemiology immediately with suspected cases of monkeypox at 601-576-7725 (601-576-7400 after-hours, holidays and weekends). Testing for monkeypox is available at the Mississippi Public Health Laboratory (MPHL). **Specimen collection and submission must be pre-approved and coordinated through the MSDH Office of Epidemiology.**

Specimen Requirements

Specimen Type	Dry Swabs ONLY (two for each lesion)
Collection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use TWO separate dry swabs (either polyester, nylon, or Dacron) to collect infected cells from the base of the open lesion by swabbing/brushing the lesion vigorously with the swab applicator. 2. Break off the swab applicator into an individual sterile container (conical tube, 1.5- or 2-mL screw-capped tube or urine cup). The swabs must be submitted dry; do NOT add any transport media to the container.
Storage and transport	Refrigerate (2–8°C) or freeze (-20°C or below) specimens within an hour of collection. Specimens must be packaged and sent to the MPHL as a Category B infectious substance. Pre-packaged specimens may be delivered directly to the MPHL or can be dropped off at a local MSDH clinic for overnight delivery to the MPHL.
Submission information	A MPHL Miscellaneous Laboratory Examination Request must accompany each sample/collection site. Label the outside of all tubes with the patient’s name, unique identifier, date of collection, source of specimen (vesicle/pustule) and collection site.



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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 presumptive results. The CDC can provide *Monkeypox virus*-specific testing on the second dry swab specimen if the first dry swab is presumptive 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. Needles, blades, etc. used to open vesicles should be disposed of in an appropriate sharps container.
Thorough handwashing using soap should be done immediately after specimen collection and following removal of personal protective equipment.

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 and the clinician identified on the MPHL Miscellaneous Laboratory Test Examination Request provided with the specimens.



Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: **MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)**
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20220525-00575-**ALT**
Program (HAN) Type: **Health Alert**
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00575
Severity: Unknown
Acknowledgement: No
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Expiration: Undetermined
Urgency: Undetermined
Delivery Time: 600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert**, **ADV=Health Advisory**, **UPD=Health Update**, **MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**)).

Program (HAN) Type: Categories of Health Alert Messages.

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Health Info Service: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

Status (Type):

- Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event
- Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
- Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded

Message Type:

- Alert: Indicates an original Alert
- Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
- Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
- Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted



Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme:	Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe:	Significant threat to life or property
Moderate:	Possible threat to life or property
Minor:	Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown:	Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive:	Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive:	Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration:

Undetermined.

Urgency:

Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time:

Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).