

Monkeypox testing to be performed in-house at NYPH-Cornell Hospital

Who is this message for:

NewYork Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center healthcare providers and clients

What is this message about:

Effective Monday September 26, in-house PCR testing will be available for suspected cases of monkeypox virus infection. The Altona Diagnostics RealStar® Zoonotic Orthopox real-time PCR assay detects the presence of zoonotic (non-variola) Orthopox species specific DNA. Testing will be performed Monday through Friday. The turn-around-time will be between 8 and 72 hours depending on the time the specimen is received in the laboratory (specimens that arrive after 9 a.m. will not be tested until the following morning; specimens that arrive Friday after 9 a.m. will be tested Monday morning).

What do we need from you?

Please submit one swab per lesion in a tube with viral transport media. **Dry swabs without transport media will not be accepted.** Specimens should be shipped on ice packs and can be refrigerated up to 72 hours. After 72 hours, samples should be stored at -20° C. Please continue to follow the guidance for collection and submitting specimens for monkeypox testing as shown in *Figure 1* and on the back of this memo.

Ordering Information:

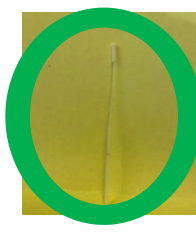
- If you are an **EPIC user**, order **MONKYOX (ORTHOPOXVIRUS), DNA, PCR (INHOUSE)- Test code: LAB58974**
 - By default, the EPIC order panel will place two orders to collect from two lesions. If the patient only has one lesion, please remove the second order.

Note the following ordering information for **NON-EPIC** clients:

- If ordering using a **manual requisition**: In the Miscellaneous field, write "**MONKYOX (ORTHOPOXVIRUS), DNA, PCR**"
- ChangeHealthCare/EMDEON**: Order **Monkeypox (Non-variola Orthopoxvirus) PCR- Test code: 1357413989**

Specimen Collection:

Figure 1. Acceptable and unacceptable swabs and specimen tubes:



PREFERRED	Acceptable swab	Acceptable tubes	Unacceptable tubes
swab Nylon, polyester or Dacron swab with rigid, breakable stem (e.g., Copan FLOQSwabs)	Acceptable swab Flexible, thintipped nylon, polyester or Dacron swab with breakable stem (e.g., nasopharyngeal swab packaged in the viral or smart transport media kits)	Tubes that contain pink/red universal viral transport media or smart transport media (BD UTM, Copan UTM, MedSchenker STM)	Tubes without transport media and tubes that contain clear bacterial transport media (e.g., BD ESwab Collection & Transport System for Aerobic, Anaerobic & Fastidious Bacteria)

For any questions, please contact:

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Outreach Client Services Department

212-746-0670

Guidance for collection and submitting specimens for monkeypox testing

NYLON, POLYESTER OR DACRON SWABS WITH RIGID, BREAKABLE STEMS ARE PREFERRED for specimen collection. The rigidity of the swab may allow for more effective sample collection, reducing the likelihood of inconclusive test results.

- These rigid swabs (e.g., Copan FLOQSwabs® Regular Flocked Swab with 80mm Breakpoint) will be provided to our Outreach clients.
- The rigid swabs can be used in conjunction with the viral transport media (VTM) or smart transport media (STM) available in the kits used for collection of nasopharyngeal swabs for COVID-19 and respiratory pathogen PCR panel tests.
- **Flexible swabs that are packaged in the transport media kits are still considered acceptable for specimen collection if rigid swabs are not available.**

Obtain the supplies needed for specimen collection (2 sterile swabs (ideally rigid swabs) and 2 sterile screw cap specimen tubes that contain viral transport media or smart transport media (e.g., 2 BD Universal Viral Transport kits), 2 specimen labels, biohazard-labeled specimen transport bag) *See Figure 1 above.*

1. **Don appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE):** gown, gloves, eye protection, N95 respirator. PPE should be worn by all healthcare personnel in the exam room.
2. **Sanitize the patient's skin** with an alcohol wipe and allow skin to dry.
3. **Obtain 1 swab sample from each of 2 different lesions using a different swab for each lesion (i.e., 2 separate swabs)**
 - a. Using a dry swab, vigorously swab the lesion (*It is not necessary to unroof the lesion*).
 - b. Insert the swab into the tube that contains viral transport media or smart transport media. Break off the swab stick and tightly screw the cap onto the tube.
 - c. Collect a sample from a second lesion using the process described in "a" and "b" above.
 - d. **Apply the printed patient labels** with name and medical record number to each of the 2 tubes and **indicate on the label the body site of the specimen. The description of the body site should be different for the two specimens** (e.g., "left 1st finger" and "right 2nd finger" rather than "finger" and "finger").
4. Place specimen tubes into a biohazard-labeled specimen transport bag with green "Monkey Pox Collection" label adhered to the outside of the specimen bag to help identify specimen once received in our laboratory.
 - a. If you do not have the Green Label, use any alternative label to clearly identify that this is a Monkeypox sample. Contact Client Services at (212)746-0670 to arrange to have labels sent to you, if needed.
5. Samples should be transported on a cold pack to preserve samples' stability. There is no room temperature stability for this test. Please make sure sample is refrigerated after collection and during transportation on cold packs.
 - a. **Stability:** Refrigerated 72 hours
6. Fold the requisition so the requisition number barcode is visible and place into the outer pouch of the specimen bag. Proper folding and placement of the requisition assures the safety of our couriers and allows them to maintain proper tracking of specimens.
7. In order to ensure specimen stability, once packaging is complete, contact Client Services at (212)746-0670 to request a "Monkeypox pickup" pick-up. Provide the address of your location, including the floor or suite number and the exact location where the specimen will be left for pick-up.
 - a. You **MUST** contact Client Services and request a Monkeypox pick-up even if your location already has a preschedule pick-up time.
8. After specimen collection is completed, all PPE worn by the specimen collector (gloves, mask, gown, etc.) and all used sample collection materials (alcohol wipes, etc.) should be removed and discarded in the same manner as other medical waste in healthcare and does not require specialized transport, disposal or treatment.

If you expect to expand your hours of operation for collection of this test, please contact our Logistics Dept/Client Services at 212-746-0670 to arrange accommodations for pick up.