

**Monkeypox testing will now be performed at Labcorp**

**Who is this message for:**

**EPIC** and **Non-EPIC** New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medicine healthcare providers and clients.

**What is this message about:**

All testing for Monkeypox will now be performed by Labcorp for all sites. In addition, this document describes the process for requesting, collecting, and submitting samples for testing patients for suspected Monkeypox.

Effective July 13, 2022, DOH approval is NO LONGER REQUIRED to test for Monkeypox. Monkeypox testing can be ordered in Epic using the “Monkeypox Order Set” and will be sent to Labcorp for testing. For outpatients and patients discharged from the ED, Infection Prevention & Control (IP&C) DOES NOT need to be contacted for all suspected cases at the time of testing. IP&C should be contacted for any questions and will also receive positive test results for contact tracing.

**What do we need from you?**

Sample should arrive on cold packs to preserve sample stability. Refer to Figure 1 on page 2 for acceptable and unacceptable swabs and specimen tubes for collection, and “COLLECT AND SUBMIT SAMPLES FOR MONKEYPOX TESTING” information on page 3.

If you are an **EPIC user**, order **AMB MONKEYPOX ORDER PANEL**.

- The Epic AMB Monkeypox panel will automatically generate two orders each with their own label.

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

- **If ordering using a manual requisition:** In the Miscellaneous field, write “**Monkeypox DNA PCR**”.
- **Cerner:** Order **Monkeypox Orthopoxvirus DNA PCR (Labcorp)**
- **ChangeHealthCare/EMDEON:** Order **1320518049**

**For any questions and/or to inquire about specimen collection:**

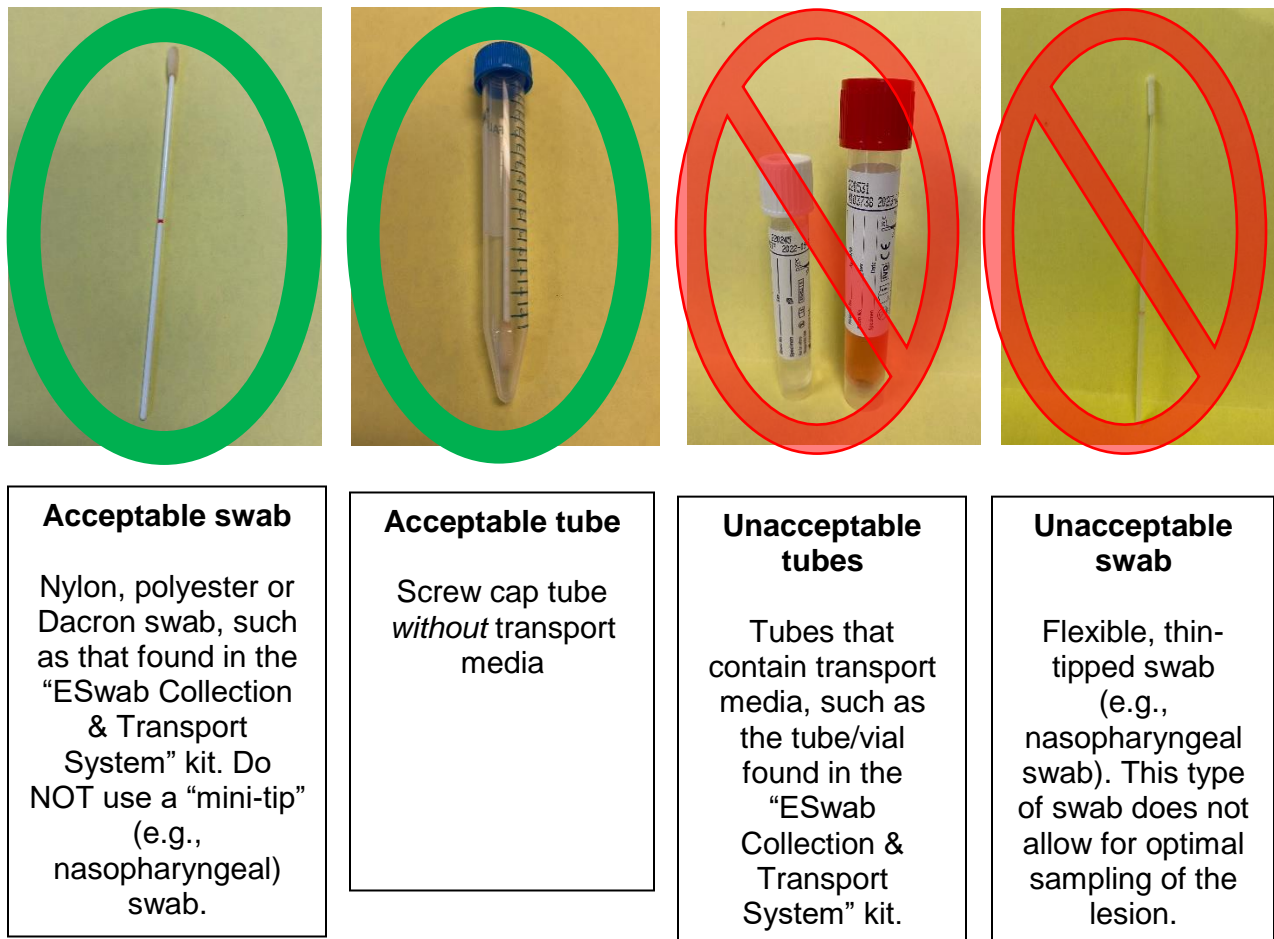
Please direct any inquiries to our Outreach Client Services Department at (212)746-0670.

Supplies are limited. To inquire about availability, please contact Logistics at (212)746-0669.

For further information on Monkeypox, please visit [MonkeypoxClinicalBulletin3.pdf \(nyp.org\)](#) or call Infection Prevention & Control 212-746-1754.

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

**Figure 1: Acceptable and unacceptable swabs and specimen tubes**



**\*We are also accepting the Labcorp approved swab for Monkeypox testing:**



**COLLECT AND SUBMIT SAMPLES FOR MONKEYPOX TESTING**

1. **Obtain the supplies needed for specimen collection** (4 sterile swabs, 2 sterile specimen/swab holders/tubes with screw cap that do NOT contain transport media, 2 patient labels, red biohazard bag).
2. **Don appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE):** gown, gloves, eye protection, N95 respirator. PPE should be worn by all healthcare personnel in the exam room.
3. **Sanitize the patient's skin** with an alcohol wipe and allow skin to dry.
4. **Obtain 2 swab samples** from each of 2 different lesions (i.e., 4 separate swabs)
  - a. Using a dry swab, vigorously swab the **lesion**
    - It is not necessary to unroof the lesion
  - b. Collect a second swab sample from the same lesion using the process described in "a" above.
  - c. Insert both swabs into one empty collection tube. **DO NOT USE A TUBE THAT CONTAINS TRANSPORT MEDIA.** Break off the swab sticks and tightly screw the cap onto the tube.
  - d. Collect 2 samples from a second lesion using the process described in "a-c" above.
  - e. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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 7 days
7. Fold the requisition so the requisition number barcode is visible and place into the outer pouch of the specimen bag.
  - a. Proper folding and placement of the requisition assures the safety of our couriers and allows them to maintain proper tracking of specimens.
8. In order to ensure specimen stability, once packaging is complete, contact Client Services at (212)746-0670 to request a STAT pick up.
  - a. 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.
  - b. Providing the patient's information will also assist us to ensure proper tracking of the test to completion.
  - c. You **MUST** contact Client Services for a pick-up even if your location already has a preschedule pick up time.
9. 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.