

Monkeypox collection and submitting sample: Key updates

Who is this message for:

New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medicine healthcare providers and clients

What is happening:

Effective immediately, LabCorp has made collection changes for Monkeypox testing. Dry specimen tube collection should no longer be used for MonkeyPox. Specimens collected from lesions should be submitted in tubes that contain viral transport Media (VTM) or Smart Transport Media (STM). Flexible swabs are also now acceptable for specimen collection. The kits currently used to collect nasopharyngeal swabs for COVID-19 and respiratory pathogen PCR panel tests can be used for Monkeypox testing. Please see **Figure 1** for updated acceptable and unacceptable swabs and specimen tubes.

What you will need to do:

When submitting swab specimens in tubes containing VTM or STM, **ONLY ONE SWAB PER LESION IS REQUIRED**. It is no longer required to obtain 2 swab samples from each lesion.

IT IS STILL REQUIRED TO SAMPLE 2 LESIONS WHEN MORE THAN 1 LESION IS PRESENT. The swab from each of the 2 sampled lesions should be submitted in a separate tube containing VTM or STM.

Please note, dry swab collections will not be rejected at this time, but going forward, clients will need to switch to the new supply.

Ordering Information:

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

- The panel includes orders for two “Monkeypox (Orthopoxvirus), DNA, PCR” tests to allow for collection of a sample from two different lesions.

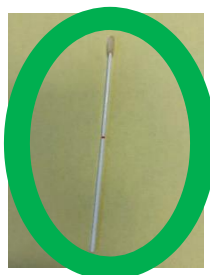
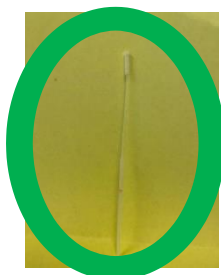
Note the following ordering information for NON-EPIC clients:

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

Specimen Collection:

Figure 1. Acceptable and unacceptable swabs and specimen tubes



<p>Acceptable swab</p> <p>Flexible, thin-tipped nylon, polyester or Dacron swab with breakable stem (e.g., nasopharyngeal swab)</p>	<p>Acceptable swab</p> <p>Nylon, polyester or Dacron swab with rigid, breakable stem (e.g., Copan FLOQSwabs)</p>	<p>Acceptable tubes</p> <p>Tubes that contain pink/red universal viral transport media or smart transport media</p>	<p>Unacceptable tubes</p> <p>Tubes without transport media and tubes that contain clear bacterial transport media (e.g., BD ESwab Collection & Transport System for Aerobic, Anaerobic & Fastidious Bacteria)</p>
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1. **Obtain the supplies needed for specimen collection** (2 sterile 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.*
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 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").
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.

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.