

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY MONKEYPOX GUIDANCE

Mandatory Criteria for Monkeypox Testing at SDPHL:

Patient with a lesion characteristic of monkeypox (firm, well-circumscribed, deep-seated, often umbilicated and painful), AND one or more of the following:

1. A man who had close or intimate in-person contact with men within the last three weeks
2. A person identified as being a close contact to a diagnosed monkeypox case
3. A person who had close contact with a person in a social network experiencing monkeypox activity within the last three weeks

****Specimens from individuals that do not meet the above criteria should not be submitted to SDPHL but may be submitted to a commercial laboratory that provides monkeypox testing. See accompanying FAQ for commercial laboratory contact information.****

Specimen Collection:

- More than one lesion should be sampled, preferably from different locations on the body and/or from lesions with differing appearances.
- Swab a single lesion with two (2) separate sterile, dry polyester, rayon, nylon, or dacron swabs.
Collect duplicate swabs from a maximum of three (3) lesions. There should be a maximum of six (6) swabs collected from each patient.
- Each swab should be placed in its own sterile container (do not place two swabs in one container); swabs may be broken off into 1.5-2 mL tubes or left whole in larger containers.
- **DO NOT add viral transport medium; only dry swabs should be submitted to SDPHL.**
- Each container must be labeled with patient name, a second unique patient identifier, and specimen collection location (e.g., left hand, right foot, cheek, anus, etc.).
- Swabs should be refrigerated within one (1) hour of collection.
- Specimens are good for seven (7) days in the refrigerator. For longer storage, specimens must be stored at -20 degrees Celsius or less.

Specimen Rejection:

- Specimen(s) will be rejected if:
 - They do not meet criteria for testing at SDPHL.
 - Improperly labeled.
 - Submitted without a SDPHL requisition.
 - Received at a temperature higher than 8 degrees Celsius.



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- Submitted to SDPHL in VTM (SDPHL only accepts dry swabs).

Packaging:

- SDPHL Monkeypox Laboratory Requisition must accompany specimens. The SDPHL Monkeypox Requisition can be found here: <https://doh.sd.gov/lab/medical-microbiology/>
- Specimens must be triple-packaged and shipped as a Category B infectious agent in foam container with dry ice or multiple ice packs. The SDPHL shipping address is as follows:

South Dakota Public Health Laboratory
ATTN: Whitney
615 E. 4th Street
Pierre, SD 57501

- Upon request, SDPHL will provide packaging supplies to include biohazard bags, Tyvek bags, foam shipping containers with cardboard overpack, and cold packs; SDPHL does not provide dry ice.
- Laboratories can request specimen collection and packaging supplies here: https://sdeforms.na2.documents.adobe.com/public/esignWidget?wid=CBFCIBAA3AAABLbIqZhC6bf5kUpJ3TEVlyT4FRVclXP6va-EFrzAlorl24ame9pLB5YV-1IH-c-iF-ZDWu9o*

****Packaging supplies provided by the SDPHL are expressly for specimen packaging and shipping to SDPHL and should not be used to package specimens for shipment to other laboratories****

Courier Service:

- Please call 1-877-434-9366 to schedule a courier pick-up.

Testing:

- One swab from each specimen collection location (e.g., buttock, right hand, etc.) will be tested at SDPHL.
- Most results will be available within 8 hours of specimen receipt; some specimens may require retesting which will delay results for up to 24 hours.
- The result of SDPHL testing is considered final and will not be confirmed by CDC.

Result Interpretation

- Positive: Non-Variola Orthopoxvirus DNA Detected
 - The assay detects the DNA of common non-variola Orthopoxvirus human pathogens, including *Vaccinia*, *Cowpox*, and *Monkeypox* viruses. This assay result must be used



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in conjunction with other diagnostic test results, clinical observations, and exposure history.

- **Negative:** No Non-Variola Orthopoxvirus DNA Detected
- **Inconclusive:** Inconclusive for non-variola Orthopoxvirus DNA by Real-time PCR.
 - An inconclusive result may occur in the case of an inadequate specimen. Adequate specimen collection may result in slight patient discomfort.

****Although the CDC Non-Variola Orthopoxvirus nucleic acid amplification test will detect viral pathogens other than monkeypox, at this time the CDC considers this test to be confirmatory for monkeypox.****

Revised: 08/28/2022