

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY MONKEYPOX FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Does South Dakota Public Health Laboratory (SDPHL) provide monkeypox testing?

A: Yes. SDPHL performs monkeypox testing for high-risk patients based on the following South Dakota Department of Health (SDDOH) criteria:

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

Q: How does a provider distinguish between a lesion characteristic of monkeypox and other common lesions or rashes?

A: Monkeypox lesions are firm or rubbery, well-circumscribed, deep-seated, and often develop umbilication (resembles a dot on the top of the lesion). They are often described as painful until the healing phase when they become itchy. Lesions often occur in the genital and anorectal areas or in the mouth. The lesions may be confined to only a few lesions or only a single lesion.

For the specific stages of lesion progression and pictures of monkeypox lesions, visit the CDC website on Clinical Recognition:

(<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/clinical-recognition.html>)

Q: Who provides monkeypox testing for patients that do not meet SDDOH criteria?

A: If the patient does not meet SDDOH criteria, specimens may be submitted to a commercial laboratory for testing. Commercial laboratory information can be found at the following:

- Healthcare providers can access information on Aegis's test at:
 - <https://www.aegislabs.com/our-services/monkeypox/>

- Healthcare providers can access information on Sonic's test at:
 - <https://www.sonicreferencelab.com/featured-testing/monkeypox/>
- Healthcare providers can access information on Quest's test at:
 - <https://www.questdiagnostics.com/healthcare-professionals/about-our-tests/infectious-diseases/monkeypox>
- Healthcare providers can access information on LabCorp's test at:
 - <https://www.labcorp.com/infectious-disease/monkeypox>

Q: When does SDPHL perform monkeypox testing?

A: SDPHL performs monkeypox testing Monday-Friday; SDPHL does not perform monkeypox testing on weekends or holidays. Specimens received on Saturday will be tested the following Monday. In the rare case of a Monday holiday, specimens received over the weekend and on Monday will be tested on Tuesday.

Q: What is the turn-around time for monkeypox testing at SDPHL?

A: SDPHL will provide results within 24-48 hours of specimen receipt. Most results will be provided within 8 hours.

Q: How many specimens should be submitted for monkeypox testing at SDPHL?

A: Two to three lesions from each patient should be collected for testing at SDPHL. Each lesion should be swabbed with 2 separate swabs and placed into 2 separate containers. For each patient, there should be a total of 4-6 swabs submitted for testing.

Q: What type of containers should monkeypox swabs be placed in?

A: Swabs can be left whole and placed into containers such as a 15 mL conical tube, 50 mL conical tube, sterile urine cups, or the shaft can be broken off shorter and placed into a 1.5 – 2 mL microcentrifuge tube. Each container should have only one swab in it.

Q: How should monkeypox specimens be labeled?

A: Specimens sent for monkeypox testing should have at least two unique identifiers (patient first and last name, date of birth, collection date) and specimen collection location (face, neck,

right hand, groin, buttock, etc.).

Q: What paperwork should accompany a monkeypox specimen for testing at SDPHL?

A: The SDPHL Monkeypox specimen requisition should accompany all specimens sent for testing. The SDPHL Monkeypox requisition can be found here: <https://doh.sd.gov/lab/medical-microbiology/>

Q: How do I ship specimens to SDPHL for testing?

A: Please ship specimens as Category B infectious substances using a foam cooler. Ship on dry ice if possible or use plenty of ice packs to ensure the specimens arrive cold.

Q: Does SDPHL offer courier service for monkeypox and related testing?

A: Yes. To schedule a pickup by Avera MedSpeed Courier, please call 877-434-9366.

Q: What are the possible results for monkeypox testing?

A: Monkeypox testing at SDPHL will provide the following results: positive, negative, or inconclusive.

Q: What causes an inconclusive result?

A: An inconclusive result may be caused by inadequate specimen collection. Adequate specimens are those specimens where biological material from a patient is collected using a sterile swab. A patient may experience slight discomfort to effectively collect a specimen for monkeypox testing.

Q: Where will SDPHL send monkeypox test results?

A: Results from monkeypox testing will only be faxed to the submitting facility listed on the specimen requisition(s).

Q: Can we safely test patient specimens while waiting for monkeypox results?



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A: Yes, non-lesion specimens (e.g., urine, blood, etc.) may be handled based on standard precautions and site-specific biosafety protocols. To ensure biosafety best practices are implemented, each laboratory must perform a site-specific biological risk assessment. For more information on risk assessments, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/safelabs/resources-tools/bio-risk-assessment.html>

Q: What other tests should be performed while waiting for monkeypox results?

A: Differential diagnosis should include testing for syphilis, herpes simplex virus, and varicella zoster; consult your laboratory for specimen criteria for differential testing.

Q: Where can I find additional information on biosafety guidelines for laboratory procedures?

A: https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/lab-personnel/lab-procedures.html?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2146-DM85088&ACSTrackingLabel=Lab%20Update%3A%20CDC%20Updates%20Guidance%20on%20Laboratory%20Biosafety%2C%20Waste%20Disposal%2C%20and%20Preparation%20and%20Collection%20of%20Monkeypox%20Specimens&deliveryName=USCDC_2146-DM85088

Q: What personal protective equipment should I wear when collecting specimens for monkeypox testing?

A: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/infection-control-healthcare.html>

Revised: 08/28/2022