



Guidelines for Sample Collection and Shipment for Monkeypox Virus Testing

Sample Collections

For the diagnostic testing for Monkeypox, we are following CDC recommendation for collecting and testing (<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/prep-collection-specimens.html>).

Specimens should be collected as soon as possible once a patient is identified, regardless of the time of symptom onset. Please maintain proper infection control when collecting specimens (wearing PPE and exercising caution with aerosols from the patient.)

1. More than one lesion should be sampled, preferably from different locations on the body and/or from lesions with differing appearances.
2. Vigorously swab or brush lesion with at least **two** separate sterile **dry** nylon, polyester, or Dacron swab with a plastic, wood, or thin aluminum shaft. Do not use other types of swabs.
3. Break off end of applicator of each swab into a 1.5- or 2-mL screw-capped tube with O-ring or place each entire swab in a separate sterile container. Do **not** add or store in viral or universal transport media.
4. Freeze (-20°C or lower) specimens within an hour after collection. Store frozen samples for up to 60 days. Freezing is strongly recommended. However, if there is no freezer available, refrigerate samples (2-8°C) and store for up to 7 days. Samples must be received within 60 days if frozen or 7 days if refrigerated.

General Guidelines

Label each specimen container with the patient's name, FMP/SSN, accession number, specimen type (e.g., serum), and the sample collection date. Please complete a NIDDL Test Request Form with the specific test request box marked and patient and HCP information on the bottom completed. If possible, please send the lesion picture with above information via encrypted email to usn.detrick.nmrc.list.didd-dsd-niddl@health.mil.

Shipping

Specimens must be packaged, shipped, and transported according to the current edition of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Dangerous Goods Regulations. Please follow regulations for UN 3373 Biological Substance, Category B when sending specimens. We recommend shipment of frozen samples to include dry ice and ice pack. If shipment by FedEx a FIRST OVERNIGHT shipment is preferred as it would facilitate earlier delivery and testing. If shipping label is needed, please contact usn.detrick.nmrc.list.didd-dsd-niddl@health.mil with your contact information (name, address, phone number) and a FedEx shipping label will be created and sent to you.



Naval Infectious Diseases Diagnostic Laboratory
503 Robert Grant Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910
Telephone/Fax: (301) 319 7150 / (301) 319 7451



Point of Contact for any questions about testing or shipping:

Naval Infectious Diseases Diagnostic Laboratory (NIDDL)

Phone: 301-319-7150;

Email: usn.detrick.nmrc.list.didd-dsd-niddl@health.mil

Ship samples to:

Naval Infectious Diseases Diagnostic Laboratory (NIDDL)

Naval Medical Research Command

503 Robert Grant Avenue, Room 3N60

Silver Spring MD, 20910