



Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory

CLIA 29D1027844 Nevada State License 3828LIC-0

LABORATORY DIRECTOR: HORNG-YUAN KAN, PHD, HCLD (ABB)

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MONKEYPOX TESTING INFORMATION

Updated 09.15.2022

INSTRUCTIONS FOR **HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS ONLY.
COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION OF SPECIMENS FOR
MONKEYPOX TESTING TO THE SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**

Please contact the Southern Nevada Health District's Division of Disease Surveillance and Control at 702-759-1300 Mon-Fri 8 AM to 4 PM for consultation to determine if specimens should be collected.

I. Specimen Collection and Handling

Note: Only personnel wearing appropriate PPE (gloves, goggles or faceshield, gown, and face mask) should be involved in specimen collection for suspected cases of monkeypox

After contacting SNHD Division of Disease Surveillance for approval to send in specimens for testing, the samples should be collected in the manner outlined below and placed in an appropriate biosafety-shipping container. See the following web site for more information on collection, packaging, and transportation of monkeypox specimens:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox>
- <https://netec.org/2022/07/22/course-monkeypox-specimen-collection/>

Refrigerate (2-8°C) or freeze (-20°C or lower) specimens within an hour after collection. Store refrigerated specimens for up to 7 days and frozen specimens for up to 60 days. Refrigerated specimens should be sent within 7 days of collection; frozen specimens should be shipped within 60 days of collection on dry ice.

Note: Each patient's lesions specimens must be packaged separately from other patient specimens to avoid Cross-contamination.



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A. Specimen Collection:

Dry Lesion Swabs

- Use only sterile Nylon, Polyester, or Dacron swabs with a plastic or aluminum shaft.

Do not use other types of swabs

- If skin atop the vesicle is intact, it may be necessary to gently lance and lift the lesion roof using a clean disposable scalpel, lancet, or plastic scraper.
- Two swabs should be collected from multiple (a minimum of two) lesions, for a total of four swabs (two swabs per lesion).
- Swab or brush each lesion vigorously with two separate sterile dry swabs
 - o Visually confirm lesion material or fluid is on the swab
- Break off the end of each swab and place in individual, screw-capped sterile tube (e.g. 15 mL conical tube or sterile urine cup) with an O-ring. If a tube with an O-ring is not available, please wrap the cap with Parafilm. o **DO NOT ADD ANY VIRAL OR UNIVERSAL TRANSPORT MEDIA.**
- Information on the specimen container must match the information on the test request form. Label each specimen container with the following:
 - o Patient Name
 - o Date of Birth
 - o Collection Date
 - o Lesion Location (e.g. right foot, abdomen, left thigh)
- Refrigerate (2–8°C) or freeze (-20°C or lower) specimens within an hour of collection

II. Specimen Submission

- Refrigerate (2-8C) or Freeze (-20C) within 1 hour of collection. Samples should be frozen if there is any delay in submission.
- All specimens should be submitted with a completed Test Request Form to SNPHL.
- Laboratory testing has indicated that the current monkeypox outbreak is associated with the West African clade of monkeypox virus. The U.S. government does not consider the West African clade of monkeypox virus as meeting the definition of Category A infectious substance under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR). Therefore, specimens and material suspected or confirmed to contain the West African clade of monkeypox virus can be shipped as UN 3373 Biological Substance, Category B.