



GUIDANCE FOR MONKEYPOX SPECIMEN AND TESTING INFORMATION FOR HOSPITAL PATIENT SUBMISSIONS

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Hospital laboratory staff should develop an in-house protocol for specimen testing and submission for patients suspected of Monkeypox infections. Ensure the following:

- Organize and develop an in-house plan inclusive of all medical staff, e.g., nurses, lab staff and staff responsible for shipping.
- Communicate the plan to ensure all staff are aware of the protocol for submission of samples to laboratories for testing.
- Encourage the use of commercial laboratories as testing capabilities are currently limited at the Public Health Laboratory. Current commercial laboratories available for Monkeypox testing include LabCorp, Quest Diagnostics, Aegis, SonicHealthCare and Mayo Clinic.
- Contact these laboratories for collection and submission information.

If specimens are submitted to commercial laboratories for testing, it is not necessary to contact the Arkansas Department of Health Public Health Laboratory. However, if it is desired to submit specimens to Arkansas Department of Health, consultation with Arkansas Department of Health staff is required before specimen submission. The clinician should call the Outbreak Response line at the following number: (501) 537-8969.

If Outbreak Response determines that a specimen can be submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for testing, refer to the Arkansas Department of Health Public Health Laboratory document "Guidance for Monkeypox Specimen Collection and Submission."

Collection Kits

The PHL does not provide collection kits to hospital laboratories. However, a collection kit can be made in-house by hospital lab staff and should consist of the following:

- Two 15 mL screw-cap conical tubes
- Two synthetic tip NP or nasal swabs (No cotton tips or wooden or aluminum shafts)
- Two biohazard bags
- Two specimen submission forms (HL-06)
- Tubes and forms (HL-06) MUST be labeled with specimen collection site(s)
- Refer to the Arkansas Department of Health Public Health Laboratory document "Guidance for Monkeypox Specimen Collection and Submission" for specimen storage and submission conditions

Sample Turnaround Time

Turnaround time is usually 24 to 48 hours after specimen receipt at the Public Health Laboratory. No testing is conducted over weekends. Positive samples are sent to CDC for sequencing analysis, thus the need for duplicate lesion swab collection.

Results are reported to ADH Outbreak Response immediately. A non-CLIA letter will be generated by Outbreak Response and sent to the submitter.

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