# M O N K E Y P O X



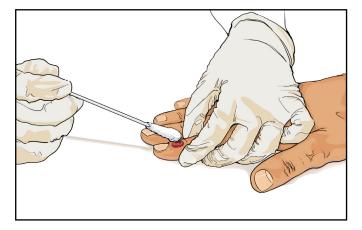
# **Testing Patients for Monkeypox**

## What lesion specimens to collect

- Collect lesion specimens for initial monkeypox testing at Laboratory Response Network (LRN) laboratories located within your public health department or at authorized commercial laboratories.
  - » Skin lesion material is recommended.
  - » Contact the laboratory (LRN or commercial) for specifics on acceptable specimen type.
- For further characterization of a specimen at CDC, three types of specimens are accepted.
  - » Dry swabs of lesion material
  - » Swabs of lesion material in viral transport media (VTM)
  - » Lesion crusts

### How to collect lesion specimens

- 1. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- 2. Collect two swabs from each lesion, preferably from different locations on the body or from lesions which differ in appearance.
  - » Use sterile, dry synthetic swabs (including, but not limited to polyester, nylon, or Dacron swabs) with a plastic, wood, or thin aluminum shaft. (Any type of shaft is acceptable as long as it can be broken or cut).
  - » Do not use cotton swabs.



- Generally, with vigorous swabbing, sufficient monkeypox virus DNA is present on the surface of a lesion, and you don't need to de-roof the lesion before swabbing. Put each swab into a separate container, either:
  - » By breaking off or cutting the end of each swab's applicator into a 1.5- or 2-mL screw-capped tube with O-ring or other sterile leak-proof container (e.g. sterile urine cup) or
  - » By putting the entire swab in a sterile container that has a gasket seal. Use a plastic container instead of a glass container, when possible.

#### How to ship specimens

- Specimens can be shipped as UN 3373 Biological Substance, Category B.
- Specimens should first be tested by an LRN or authorized commercial laboratory unless you are authorized to send specimens directly to CDC.
- If you are authorized to send specimens directly to CDC, or if you are sending specimens to CDC for viral characterization:
  - » Store refrigerated (2-8°C) or frozen (-20°C or lower) within an hour of collection.
  - » Ship specimens on dry ice, when possible. Specimens received outside of acceptable temperature ranges will be rejected.
  - Include an electronic Global File Accessioning Template (GFAT) form and ensure that each specimen is labeled with a unique identifier GFAT.
    - If less than 20 specimens are being submitted to CDC, a <u>CDC 50.34 form</u> for each specimen may be submitted instead of a GFAT.
  - » Please include a printed manifest of your specimens with your shipment.
  - » Email the GFAT form to Poxviruslab@cdc.gov

For patients with confirmed monkeypox, health care providers may send serum to CDC directly for pox serology test. See <u>CDC Poxvirus Serology</u> for details.

For more information, see <u>CDC's 2022 Monkeypox</u>: <u>Information for Healthcare Professionals</u>.