

Monkeypox Collection and Shipping Directions For Health Care Providers REVISED 7/18/22

Healthcare personnel who enter a patient's room should use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including: gown, gloves, eye protection (goggles or face shield), and N95 or higher level respirator.

Specimen Collection

At a minimum, collect **two swabs** from each lesion site sampled as follows:

- Use a sterile synthetic swab (including but not limited to nylon, polyester, or Dacron) with a plastic, wood, or thin aluminum shaft to swab the lesion vigorously to collect adequate DNA. Do not use cotton swabs as a cotton can inhibit real time PCR assays. Do not use other types of swabs.
- Place swabs in individual sterile containers. DO NOT ADD ANY VIRAL OR UNIVERSAL TRANSPORT MEDIA.
- Freeze (-20°C or lower) specimens within an hour after collection.
- Maximum storage time for frozen specimens is for up to 60 days.
- Frozen specimens should be shipped within 60 days of collection. Shipping on dry ice is strongly recommended. Specimens received that are >8°C will be rejected.

Specimen Shipment to West Virginia Office of Laboratory Services (WV OLS) Bioterrorism Lab

- Contact the WV OLS Bioterrorism Response Lab at 304-205-8917 prior to shipping the sample.
- Ideally, samples will be shipped immediately upon approval.
- Complete the WV OLS Bioterrorism Lab Clinical Specimen Submission form, https://dhhr.wv.gov/ols/labs/Documents/BT/BTClinicalTestRequestForm_8-07.pdf.
- Package the sample swabs in an insulated Category B box with dry ice. (*The Department of Transportation has excluded the West African clade of monkeypox virus from the Category A indicative list*).
- Make sure you have enough dry ice to last for the whole transit time.
- Place the submission form in the box (protected from the ice).
- Ship the package as a Suspect Category B.
- Ship the sample(s) **FedEx next-business-day, delivery by 10:30 a.m.**, to the WV OLS Bioterrorism Lab at the address below. Recipient contact number is 304-205-8917.

WV Office of Lab Services
ATTN: BT Lab
167 11th Avenue
South Charleston, WV 25303

- As soon as you ship the package, email the completed OLS form, FedEx tracking number, patient initials and patient birth date to Lisa.M.Wallace@wv.gov, Rosemarie.E.Karlen@wv.gov and Nellie.M.Cooper@wv.gov.