

Mpox Collection and Shipping Directions For Health Care Providers

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be worn when collecting specimens and includes gowns, gloves, eye protection (goggles or face shield), N95 or higher-level respirator.

Specimen Collection

At a minimum, collect **two swabs** per lesion site as follows:

- Use a sterile nylon, polyester, or Dacron swab with a plastic, wood, or thin aluminum shaft. Do not use other types of swabs.
- Swab or brush lesions vigorously with two separate sterile dry swabs.
- Place swabs in individual sterile containers. DO NOT ADD ANY VIRAL OR UNIVERSAL TRANSPORT MEDIA.
- Refrigerate (2–8°C) or freeze (-20°C or lower) specimens within an hour after collection. Freezing provides the best sample integrity for a longer period.
- Maximum storage time at the following conditions: refrigerated specimens for up to 7 days and frozen specimens for up to 60 days.
- Refrigerated specimens should be shipped within 7 days of collection; 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 several frozen cold packs or dry ice.
- Make sure you have enough cold packs or 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 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.