



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
NH PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

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**MONKEYPOX VIRUS**  
**SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT KIT INSTRUCTIONS**

Testing for monkeypox is available at the NH Public Health Laboratories (PHL) and at six commercial reference laboratories. To request testing **at the NH PHL**, clinicians should first contact the NH Dept. of Public Health Services (DPHS) by calling 603-271-4496 (after hours 603-271-5300 and ask for the public health professional on call). Clinicians do NOT need to call to report testing that is occurring through commercial laboratories.

**Kit components: (Each kit is sufficient for collecting specimens from a single lesion. If multiple lesions are collected, use an additional kit).**

- (2) - Sterile dry nylon, polyester or Dacron swabs
- (2) - 1.5 or 2ml empty screw capped tubes with O-ring
- (2) - Parafilm squares
- Specimen collection and transport instructions
- Resealable specimen bags
- Test Requisition

**Specimen:** One or more lesion, vesicle or ulcer, or dry scraping of scab. Collect two swabs from each lesion, preferably from different locations on the body or from lesions which differ in appearance (maximum of 3 lesions).

**Procedure for collection:**

1. Put on proper personal protection equipment (PPE) prior to collection.
2. Do NOT clean the area before sampling.
3. Vigorously swab each lesion with the two (2) separate sterile swabs to collect adequate sample material.
4. Break off or snip off end of applicator of each swab and put in separate sterile tube. Assure swab fits perfectly in the tube. Do not bend swab to fit into tube. Cutting the swab shaft prior to collection is permissible. Secure cap on tube.

**DO NOT ADD OR STORE IN VIRAL OR UNIVERSAL TRANSPORT MEDIA**

5. Each tube must be labeled with name of patient, date of birth, date of collection, and specimen site.
6. Wrap one square of Parafilm around the top of each tube.
7. Refrigerate specimens (2-8°C) or freeze (-20°C or lower) within one hour of collection.
8. Place both tubes in plastic zipper bag.
9. Complete laboratory specimen requisition. Ensure information matches the labeled tubes. Place requisition in the document pocket of the larger resealable zipper bag.
10. Submit specimens to the NH Public Health Laboratories on ice packs.
11. If approved for testing by the Division of Public Health Services, once the specimen has been collected, call the courier line at the NH PHL for pickup: 603-271-0305 or deliver specimens 7:30am-4pm Monday-Friday.
12. Specimens and material suspected to contain the monkeypox virus should be packaged as UN 3373 Biological Substance, Category B. If shipping specimens, they must be received at 2-8°C or frozen (-20°C or lower).

NETEC Monkeypox Specimen Collection Video: <https://youtu.be/kEYfW9rVmRI>

For kit orders, please email us at [phlclinicalkitorders@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:phlclinicalkitorders@dhhs.nh.gov) or call us at 603-271-4605 or 1-800-852-3345 ext. 4605

For technical questions, please call the Emergency Response Unit at 603-271-3684.