

# Laboratory Alert: Monkeypox

## **Before ordering or collecting a test, permission by local/state health department is required:**

- Douglas County Health Department (Methodist, Methodist Women's, or MPC)
  - (402) 444-7214
  - After hours (402) 444-7000. Ask the operator for the on call epidemiologist.
- Three Rivers Health Department (Methodist Fremont)
  - (402) 727-5396 or (866)-727-5396
  - After hours (402)727-5396 or (866)727-5396 (and select option #4)
- Iowa Dep. Public Health Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (Jennie Edmundson)
  - (515) 323-5395
  - After hours (515)323-4360

**Order:** Please note that this is not orderable in Cerner. Place an unlisted order and include in the order comment:

- "Rule out Monkeypox"
- "Approved by (name of person at local or state health department who approved the testing)"

## **Notify:**

Methodist Pathology Client Services: (402)354-4541

or

Jennie Edmundson Laboratory (712)396-6311

or

Methodist Fremont Laboratory (402)727-3849

## **Collect:**

- Prepare a work surface i.e., bedside table by disinfecting it with disinfectant wipes, adhering to product contact time.
- Lay out supplies, work from clean to dirty side with medical waste container nearby.
- Set out gloves on the disinfected area for easy access and to avoid pulling from box or container. Also lay 4 disinfectant wipes side by side on the disinfected area for placing the tubed specimens.
- Place an absorbent pad under the collection area of the patient collection site, also consider placing an absorbent pad (absorbent side down) over exposed areas with lesions to avoid contact with them.
- Perform hand hygiene, remove external gloves and don clean gloves.
- Follow CDC guidance for monkeypox specimen collection.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/prep-collection-specimens.html>
- Using sterile dry polyester or Dacron swabs collect duplicate samples from dried vesicles or lesions from at least two separate areas of the body, generating a minimum of 4 swabs for submission with 2 separate swabs from each lesion. The purpose of this is for one swab to be tested at the state public health lab and if positive the other can be sent to the CDC for confirmation.
- Each swab should be individually placed in a tube.
- Place each specimen tube on a separate disinfectant wipe.

- Perform hand hygiene, remove external gloves and don clean gloves.
- Pick up each specimen tube with the disinfectant wipe. Wipe each specimen container tube with the disinfectant wipe and set it on a clean absorbent pad.
- Perform hand hygiene, remove external gloves and don clean gloves.
- Let each specimen tube dry.
- Place pre-printed label on each specimen tube or manually write with two 2 patient identifiers.
- Write own initials, date and time on each specimen label with an ink pen.
- Parafilm or tape around lid to secure.
- Place each specimen tube into a separate small biohazard specimen bag. Seal and place on a clean disinfectant wipe.
- Wipe each specimen bag with a disinfectant wipe and place all small specimen bags into the larger biohazard specimen bag, seal it, and place it on a clean disinfectant wipe.
- Perform hand hygiene, remove external gloves and don clean gloves.
- Wipe the bag with the disinfectant wipe it is sitting on.
- Place in a second biohazard bag and submit to the laboratory.

**Submit:**

- Specimens must be refrigerated within an hour of collection.
- Send to Methodist, Jennie Edmundson, or Fremont Hospital Laboratory (transport refrigerated).
- Hospital Laboratory will arrange for the specimen to be sent to the State Public Health Lab.