INSTRUCTIONS
Ordering, Collecting, and Transporting Suspected Monkeypox Samples
For UCH Nursing and Providers

If you have a patient with a suspected Monkeypox lesion, please be aware that as of 08-04-2022, the UConn Health JDH Laboratory has worked in conjunction with the State of CT DPH Laboratory and the UCH Epic Team to offer routine send-out testing (to be performed by the CT DPH lab Mon-Fri) for patients with suspected Monkeypox, with an estimated Turnaround Time (TAT) of 24-48h (upon receipt at the CT DPH lab).

To order this new routine, send-out testing in Epic - we have created a new order:

NEW ORDER: MONKEYPOX PCR (ORTHOPOXVIRUS NON-VARIOLA)

... which will allow you to order testing for a patient with up to three lesions (sites).

* Please note: Even if you order testing for up to three sites, your patient will only receive one collection charge per day (for up to 3 specimen collections).

As part of this new process, our JDH Laboratory (who will be processing and sending samples to the CT DPH Lab) would also like to remind all staff of some very important details:

1. DO NOT use the order for “VIRUS CULTURE” – Orthopoxviruses (including Monkeypox virus) cannot be identified clinically using this testing method.
2. There are very important storage, handling, notification, and transport requirements for these specimens – Please see the more detailed instructions below.

A helpful summary of the unique preparation, ordering, collection, swabbing, packaging, lab notification, and storage / transport processes is listed below.

1. PREPARATION:
   a. Before ordering in Epic, you can find a helpful summary (including CDC and DPH guidance) in the “Clinical Care of a Suspected or Confirmed Monkeypox Case” (‘UConn Health Monkeypox Protocol’) which is available in Epic under Clinical References, and under ‘UConn Health Monkeypox Protocol’:

   Epic > Clinical References > UConn Health Monkeypox Protocol

   b. Obtain one of the Monkeypox sample kits that have been specially prepared by the JDH Laboratory and delivered to virtually all Inpatient, ED, and Outpatient Clinics (e.g. those that might potentially manage patients with suspected lesions).

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c. Some important notes about Monkeypox collection kits:
   i. You will need **one collection kit** *(to collect for up to three sites/lesions).*
   ii. Each kit will contain **six swabs** and **six sterile containers**, for the collection of up to six specimens / three sites/lesions.
   iii. **Each site/lesion (containing two collected specimens)** will be **double-bagged**, and delivered separately to the JDH Laboratory, e.g.:
       1. One site/lesion = one bag = two specimens
       2. Two sites/lesions = two bags = four specimens
       3. Three sites/lesions = three bags = six specimens
   iv. If you are in need of **Monkeypox collection kits**, please notify the JDH Laboratory at (860) 679-4001 *(Mon-Sun 7am-3:30pm)* or (860) 679-2498 *(off-hours).*

2. **PLACING ORDERS IN EPIC:**
   a. Providers can place the order for **MONKEYPOX PCR** *(ORTHOPOXVIRUS NON-VARIOLA)* in Epic.
      i. This order is an **order panel** and will allow for selection of **up to 3 specimen sites/lesions**, based on the DPH guidelines:

      ![Order Panel Screenshot]

   b. As a reminder, the order will also contain **important instructions** to notify the JDH Laboratory prior to delivering a specimen:

      ![Process Instructions Screenshot]

   c. For **each site** *(lesion)* you select on the order, Epic will print **three items**:
      i. **Two** *(2)* **patient labels** for the two swabs per site/lesion *(within each order)* **one for each container**.
      ii. **One** *(1)* **CT DPH collection** *(requisition)* **form** *(per site/lesion)* with patient demographic, specimen ID, and collection date/time.

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3. **COLLECTION**:
   a. Before you swab, verify that you have at the bedside:
      i. One collection kit
      ii. Two Epic labels and one DPH requisition form per site.
   b. Attach the printed Epic labels (e.g., site/lesion 1, site/lesion 2, etc.) on each container.
   c. For multiple specimens from the same site/lesion, please use a pen to clearly label the exact anatomic location.
   d. **VERY IMPORTANT**: On specimen collection, Inpatient/ED Nursing will see this message, reminding all staff NOT to use the tube system for specimen transport:

   ![Specimen Collection Diagram]

4. **SWABBING**:
   a. You will need to vigorously swab each site/lesion twice, once with each swab.
   b. Place each dry swab into a separate sterile container. (1 swab per container)
   c. Snap off the end of the swab, and dispose.
   d. Close each sterile container.

5. **PACKAGING**:
   a. Place each two closed containers into a smaller (inner) collection bag.
      i. **Note**: There should be 1 swab in each sterile container, with both containers placed in the smaller (inner) collection bag.
   b. **DOUBLE-BAG**: Place all smaller (inner) collection bag(s) into a larger (outer) biohazard bag, and seal.
   c. Your double-bagged collection kit, with requisition, should look like this:

   ![Double-Bagged Collection Kit]

   *(For each site/lesion : you should have one double-bagged sample, with two swabs, in two containers.)*
6. **NOTIFYING JDH LABORATORY (IN ADVANCE of transport):**
   a. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Providers or Nurses must notify the JDH Laboratory at x4001 *(Mon-Sun 7am-3:30pm)* or x2498 *(off-hours)* IN ADVANCE of transporting any suspected Monkeypox specimens.
      i. PLEASE ALSO NOTIFY THE JDH LABORATORY in advance if any additional viral studies have been ordered *(e.g. suspected HSV/VZV).*

7. **STORAGE / TRANSPORT:**
   a. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Specimens collected from patients with suspected Monkeypox infection require special storage, handling, and transport!
   b. **For INPATIENT/ED SAMPLES:**
      i. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Do NOT use the TUBE system to transport!
      ii. You can either:
         1. □ Hand-deliver to the JDH Laboratory within 1 hour of collection.
         2. □ Refrigerate and place request for Transport to pick up specimen and deliver to JDH Laboratory.
   c. **For OUTPATIENT SAMPLES:**
      i. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Outpatient Specimens must be placed in freezer pack for courier pick up and transport to JDH Laboratory.
      ii. While waiting for courier pick up - the specimen should be refrigerated *(to 2-8° C).*
      iii. Couriers will then transport the specimens to the JDH Laboratory in a cooler, on ice packs.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

- For more information from the CT DPH, please see: [https://portal.ct.gov/dph/epidemiology-and-emerging-infections/ct-monkeypox](https://portal.ct.gov/dph/epidemiology-and-emerging-infections/ct-monkeypox)
- You can also find the UConn Health “Clinical Care of a Suspected or Confirmed Monkeypox Case” *(‘UConn Health Monkeypox Protocol’)* in Epic under Clinical References:

  Epic > Clinical References > UConn Health Monkeypox Protocol

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?**

- If you have any general questions about Monkeypox risk factors, please page the Infectious Disease *(ID)* staff on-call through the UConn Health Hospital Operator at (860) 679-2000.
- If you have any questions about Monkeypox PCR laboratory testing, please call the JDH Laboratory at x4001 *(Mon-Sun 7am-3:30pm)* or x2498 *(off-hours).*
- If there are any questions about placing orders in Epic, please call the IT Service Desk (860) 679-4400 anytime.