

UConn Health
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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[SAMPLE] Monkeypox Collection Kit prepared by JDH Laboratory



- 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 :

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

Process Instructions: NOTE: Specimens collected from patients with a suspected Monkeypox (MP) infection require special handling in the laboratory. The lab **MUST** be notified in advance if MP is suspected. Please notify the Laboratory at x4001 (M-Su 7am-3:30pm) or x2498 (off-hours).

- 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

Collection Sequence
x2 SterCon
Monkeypox (Orthopoxvirus non-variola), PCR

Lesion Specimens
x2 SterCon (Arm, Left Upper)

Do not use the tube system for specimen transport.

NOTE: Each lesion requires a separate Monkeypox PCR order. Each order will generate 2 specimen container labels as each lesion requires two swabs per lesion. Using a sterile nylon, polyester, or Dacron swab, vigorously swab lesion with two swabs and place each swab in a separate sterile container. Place specimens into biohazard specimen bag and seal. Note: there are two swabs per lesion.

Monkeypox (Orthopoxvirus non-variola), PCR

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 :



(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>
- For a helpful summary of Monkeypox Precautions and management, please see the UConn Health “**Clinical Care of a Suspected or Confirmed Monkeypox Case**” (*‘Monkeypox Protocol’*) : <https://health.uconn.edu/policies/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2022/08/Monkeypox-Protocol.pdf>
- 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.