



## Sonoma County Public Health Laboratory Specimen Guidance for Orthopoxvirus (including suspected *Monkeypox virus*)

### Orthopoxvirus Laboratory Testing Guidance

Health care providers must contact their local public health department for consultation and testing approval.

Specimens that test positive for orthopoxvirus nucleic acid are considered positive for an orthopox, and additional specimen(s) may be referred to the CDC for confirmatory testing, as warranted.

#### Pre-approval

Evaluation and testing should be coordinated with your local health department. Patients may present firm, well circumscribed, deep-seated, and umbilicated [skin lesions associated with monkeypox](#) or other orthopoxvirus.

**Specimen Collection:** At a minimum, [collect](#) multiple lesion swabs as follows:

- **More than one lesion should be sampled**, preferably from different body sites, if possible.
- Swab or brush lesion(s) vigorously with two separate sterile dry swabs. Use sterile synthetic swabs (including, but not limited to, nylon, polyester, or Dacron) with a plastic, wood, or aluminum shaft. Do not use other types of swabs.
- Place each swab in its own separate sterile container. **Do NOT add any, or store in, viral or universal transport media, or any other liquid.**
- Additional specimen types may be accepted after consultation with, and preapproval by, SCPHL.
- Store and maintain all specimens at 4°C if delivering to lab within 72 hours; store at or below -20°C if delivery will be delayed.
  - If your entity is set up to do so, please order testing electronically through the web portal. If your entity is NOT set up to place orders electronically, please contact our laboratory for assistance with setting up this capability.
  - Each specimen should be labeled with **date of collection**, **specimen type**, **patient name** and **patient DOB**.
  - Specimens should be sent **cold** using a same-day or overnight courier

Send to: **Sonoma County Public Health Laboratory**  
**3313 Chanate Road**  
**Santa Rosa, CA 95404**  
**(707) 565-4711 (phone)                      (707) 565-7839 (FAX)**