

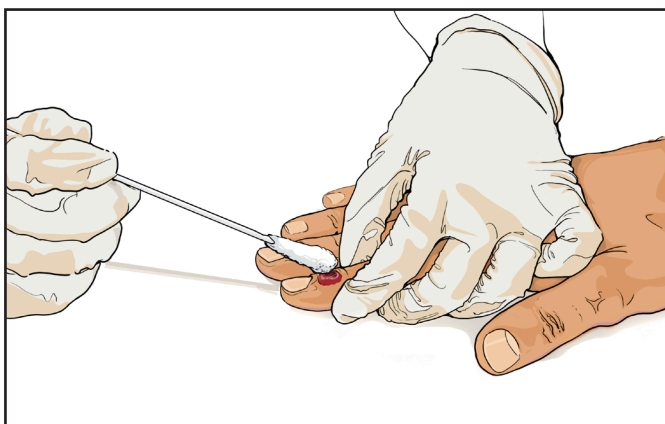
Testing Patients for Monkeypox

What lesion specimens to collect

- Collect lesion specimens for initial monkeypox testing at Laboratory Response Network (LRN) laboratories located within your public health department or at authorized commercial laboratories.
 - » Skin lesion material is recommended.
 - » Contact the laboratory (LRN or commercial) for specifics on acceptable specimen type.
- For further characterization of a specimen at CDC, three types of specimens are accepted.
 - » Dry swabs of lesion material
 - » Swabs of lesion material in viral transport media (VTM)
 - » Lesion crusts

How to collect lesion specimens

1. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
2. Collect two swabs from each lesion, preferably from different locations on the body or from lesions which differ in appearance.
 - » Use sterile, dry synthetic swabs (including, but not limited to polyester, nylon, or Dacron swabs) with a plastic, wood, or thin aluminum shaft. (Any type of shaft is acceptable as long as it can be broken or cut).
 - » Do not use cotton swabs.



3. Generally, with **vigorous** swabbing, sufficient monkeypox virus DNA is present on the surface of a lesion, and you don't need to de-roof the lesion before swabbing. Put each swab into a separate container, either:
 - » By breaking off or cutting the end of each swab's applicator into a 1.5- or 2-mL screw-capped tube with O-ring or other sterile leak-proof container (e.g. sterile urine cup) or
 - » By putting the entire swab in a sterile container that has a gasket seal. Use a plastic container instead of a glass container, when possible.

How to ship specimens

- Specimens can be shipped as UN 3373 Biological Substance, Category B.
- Specimens should first be tested by an LRN or authorized commercial laboratory unless you are authorized to send specimens directly to CDC.
- If you are authorized to send specimens directly to CDC, or if you are sending specimens to CDC for viral characterization:
 - » Store refrigerated (2-8°C) or frozen (-20°C or lower) within an hour of collection.
 - » Ship specimens on dry ice, when possible. Specimens received outside of acceptable temperature ranges will be rejected.
 - » Include an electronic Global File Accessioning Template (GFAT) form and ensure that each specimen is labeled with a unique identifier GFAT.
 - If less than 20 specimens are being submitted to CDC, a [CDC 50.34 form](#) for each specimen may be submitted instead of a GFAT.
 - » Please include a printed manifest of your specimens with your shipment.
 - » Email the GFAT form to Poxviruslab@cdc.gov

For patients with confirmed monkeypox, health care providers may send serum to CDC directly for pox serology test. See [CDC Poxvirus Serology](#) for details.

For more information, see [CDC's 2022 Monkeypox: Information for Healthcare Professionals](#).