



PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON THE COLLECTION AND TRANSPORTATION OF SPECIMENS FOR MONKEYPOX VIRUS TESTING — UPDATED AUGUST 9, 2022

Collection of Monkeypox Virus Specimens

1. Don appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Refer to instructions for PPE as provided by Infection Prevention and Control Department.
2. Collect TWO samples from the lesion(s):
 - a. Use the individually packed swab and put it in the 2ml sterile tube (Dry Swab).
 - b. Use any listed swab/ transport media sets (UTM, VTM, YOCON, or ALLTM).

Ensure the swab is placed back into the correct tube for accurate results.

Swabs must be maintained and transported in refrigerated temperature conditions.

3. If collected, the tissue is to be put in a sterile tube/container (no fluid) and maintained/transported frozen.
4. Clearly label at the point of collection using name, health care number, date, time of collection, and source of specimen.



Packaging and Transportation of Monkeypox Virus Specimens

Swab specimens are transported in refrigerated packaging conditions, and tissue specimens are transported in frozen conditions.

Individuals packaging specimens must hold certification in the transportation of dangerous goods (TDG) road or air as appropriate or directly supervised by a person certified in TDG. TDG training vendor recommendation (BIO101 for road + BIO105 for Air): <https://complianceacademii.com/dangerous-goods-compliance-courses/>

Package specimens using UN3373 Category B P650 packaging or P620 packaging with an additional label stating "Temporary Certificate -TU 0886" in clear print on a contrasting background. PHML can supply a template for these labels. Package waste materials using UN3291 in and in accordance with site waste management practices and/or contracted biohazardous waste vendor instructions.

Where further guidance is needed; please contact the Microbiologist on call (MOC) at Microbiologistoncall@easternhealth.ca or contact the Health Science Centre switchboard at (709) 777-6300 to access the MOC.

***Note: The information in this document is subject to change as new information or evidence accumulates. Please follow the most up-to-date memo for information.**