



PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

Dr. LA Miller Centre, 100 Forest Road, St. John's, NL A1A 3Z9 Phone:(709) 777-6583 www.publichealthlab.ca

Laboratory Processing and Transportation- Monkeypox Virus (MPXV) & Routine Specimens

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This communication is directed to laboratories that receive, package, and transport specimens between sites by road and air. This includes specimens for diagnosing MPXV and other lab specimens where the patient is known to be under investigation for MPXV.

Consult the Microbiologist On-Call (MOC) for any MPXV testing request. Collection swabs are available to all microbiology laboratories within the province. The Meditech ordering mnemonic is MONK.

Please see the attached memo for collecting and transporting specimens for MPXV. Please ensure a copy of the memo is provided to any location requesting information for collecting these specimens.

Containment and PPE

Monkeypox virus is a Risk Group 3 (RG3) pathogen. Any specimen may contain RG3 pathogens, and therefore, Laboratory personnel must strictly adhere to the standard containment practices and routine precautions to prevent lab-acquired infections. Laboratories should refer to the Laboratory Safety Manual and risk assessments such as those previously conducted in Eastern Health (under RA-062). Always use a lab coat and gloves, and for droplet or aerosol hazards, extra face/eye protection. Centrifuge bucket covers and vortexing containment measures are vital for preventing exposure to infectious aerosols.

Packaging and Transportation

Specimens for diagnosis of Monkeypox Virus (swabs or tissue) and routine lab specimens from patients known to be under investigation for monkeypox must be shipped according to the *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations* (TDGR) temporary certificate outlined below.

Swab specimens for monkeypox investigation are shipped using refrigerated packing schemes and tissue specimens using frozen packing schemes.

Refer to the packing schemes set out by your region to maintain the temperatures applicably.

Those who package specimens must hold certification in the transportation of dangerous goods (TDG) road or air as appropriate or be directly supervised by a person certified in TDG.

TDGR Shipping by Road or Air: Package specimens using UN3373, Biological Substance, Category B, using P650 or P620 packaging **with an additional label stating** "Temporary Certificate-TU 0886" in clear print on a contrasting background. Please see the attached label template, which can be printed as needed.

Waste Materials

Segregate blood, swabs, and other contaminated waste materials until confirmatory testing is completed. If a patient is suspect or tests positive for the monkeypox virus, package using routine biological waste bags and containers. Double bag the waste and place in the hard-shell biohazardous waste container. Ensure the lid of the biohazard container is fully sealed and place a temporary certificate label on the top and all sides of the container. Disinfect the outside of the container. Outside Eastern Health, waste management and the contracted waste vendor may communicate further instructions for packaging waste materials specific to your facility.