



ORTHOPOXVIRUS (INCLUDES MONKEYPOX VIRUS) BY PCR Specimen Collection and Shipping Instructions

Refer to the information below for guidance on collecting, preparing, and shipping specimens in cases of suspected monkeypox for which the [Orthopoxvirus \(includes monkeypox virus\) by PCR](#) test will be ordered.

Please note that information is changing rapidly, and ARUP will update this document frequently. For the most up-to-date information, please visit aruplab.com/monkeypox-testing.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- **Patient Demographics Form for Public Health Reporting:** To comply with public health reporting regulations, ensure an appropriate response to this evolving public health emergency, and limit spread within your community, submit this [form](#) or transmit complete patient demographic information with each order.
- Please do not submit orders for viral cultures of any kind from patients with suspected or confirmed monkeypox infections. Orthopoxviruses, including monkeypox viruses, cannot be identified clinically using this test method.

TEST OVERVIEW:

Reported: 1–3 days

Required Supplies: Viral Transport Media (VTM) and one sterile swab (ARUP client supply 12884)



Unacceptable Conditions: Calcium alginate swab; wooden swab; specimens without swabs

Specimen Type: Lesion swab in Viral Transport Media (ARUP supply #12884)

Collection Instructions: Swab the lesion vigorously to collect adequate DNA. It is not necessary to deroof the lesion before swabbing. Place lesion swab in Viral Transport Media (ARUP supply #12884).

IMPORTANT NOTES

- When collecting multiple swabs from the same lesion, place two swabs in a single container and submit both under the same order.
- When collecting from different body sites or lesions, place in separate containers and submit one order per body site or lesion.

Specimen Preparation: When preparing swab specimens, please make sure to snap off the shaft of the swab at the scored indicator line, leaving the flocked end of the swab inside the collection tube. Securely recap the collection tube. The shaft of the swab should not be in contact with the lid, as this prevents a secure seal.

Do not place films, such as paraffin film (parafilm), between the tube and the lid or around the lid of the transport container.

Storage/Transport Temperature: The preferred temperature is frozen; however, refrigerated is also acceptable.

Specimen Stability: Ambient: 24 hours; refrigerated: 7 days; frozen: 7 days

Shipping Instructions: The CDC states that specimens should be handled, packed, and shipped according to UN 3373 Biological Substance, Category B requirements.

How to Obtain Supplies: Supplies are available through eSupply using ARUP Connect™. Clients may obtain their own supplies.

For Client Assistance: Please call ARUP Client Services at 800-522-2787 and use keyword: monkeypox.

Additional Information and Resources: Our [ARUP Consult Monkeypox topic](#) has detailed information for clinicians on monkeypox presentation, transmission, indications for testing, and test ordering recommendations, as well as quick answers to common questions. Please direct clinicians to this valuable resource for additional information.

Please see our [Monkeypox FAQs](#) page for additional information about ARUP's monkeypox infection testing options, specimen requirements, billing information, and more.