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Clark County Combined Health District- Health Alert
Monkeypox Virus (MPX): Testing Guidance
July 18, 2022

Summary:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) are continuing to respond to the ongoing global [outbreak of monkeypox virus \(MPX\)](#).
- Rapid diagnostic testing can reduce the risk of additional disease transmission by ensuring prompt implementation of public health interventions, including release of medical countermeasures (antiviral drugs and vaccines) and contact tracing.
- In alignment with [national efforts to increase testing](#), ODH is adopting streamlined procedures to promote ease of access to *Orthopoxvirus* testing at the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory (ODHL).

For suspected cases of Monkeypox, healthcare providers or any individual having knowledge, should immediately notify both infection control personnel at their healthcare facility and their local health department.

****Clark County Combined Health District (CCCHD) 24/7 Emergency Phone Number: 937-390-5600****

Clinical Recognition: Monkeypox disease is characterized by the development of an initial prodrome (e.g., fever, malaise, headache, weakness, etc.) followed by a rash. Lymphadenopathy is common. Rash lesions are usually well circumscribed, deep seated, and often develop umbilication. Illness typically lasts 2-4 weeks. This outbreak has had many abnormal rashes, so for reference photos and for additional information on monkeypox virus disease, please see [CDC's Monkeypox: Clinical Recognition webpage](#).

Testing Criteria: Testing is recommended for anyone with a new characteristic rash or who meets one of the epidemiologic criteria and for whom there is high clinical suspicion for monkeypox. Clinical suspicion may exist if the presentation is consistent with illnesses including secondary syphilis, herpes, and varicella zoster virus.

Epidemiologic Criteria/Risk Factors:

Within 21 days of illness onset:

- Reports having contact with a person or people with a similar appearing rash or who received a diagnosis of confirmed or probable monkeypox **OR**
- Had close or intimate in-person contact with individuals in a social network experiencing monkeypox activity, this includes men who have sex with men (MSM) who meet partners through an online website, digital application ("app"), or social event (e.g., a bar or party) **OR**
- Traveled outside the US to a country with confirmed cases of monkeypox or where *Monkeypox virus* is endemic **OR**
- Had contact with a dead or live wild animal or exotic pet that is an African endemic species or used a product derived from such animals (e.g., game meat, creams, lotions, powders, etc.)

If the individual does not meet the epidemiological criteria but the Healthcare Provider thinks there is a high clinical suspicion for Monkeypox, testing can still be performed.

Specimen Collection, Storage and Shipping:

CCCHD can help provide the necessary testing supplies/dry ice and transportation to the ODHL lab as needed.

- Collect 4 swabs for preliminary and confirmatory testing as follows:
 - Collect 2 swabs at a single lesion site (duplicate specimen from same site); each swab should be labeled with the collection site.



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- Collect and label 2 additional duplicate swabs from a separate lesion site, preferably from a different location on the body and/or from lesions with differing appearances.
- **Vigorously** swab or brush lesion with separate sterile dry polyester, Dacron, or Rayon swab with a plastic, wood, or thin aluminum shaft. Do not use other types of swabs.
- Place each swab in a separate sterile container. **Do not add or store in viral or universal transport media.**
- Two samples (one from each different lesion site) will be tested at ODHL. The remaining 2 specimens will be shipped to CDC for further characterization, if needed.
- Specimens should be **stored frozen within one (1) hour of collection**. Freezing specimens at -20°C or lower is strongly recommended as frozen specimens may be tested for up to 60 days after collection. Frozen specimens should be delivered to ODHL within 10 days from collection and should be shipped on dry ice.
- If freezing specimens is not possible, specimens can only be stored at 2-8°C for up to seven (7) days prior to testing. Refrigerated specimens need to be delivered to ODHL within two (2) days from collection and should be shipped with ice packs.
 - This will allow time for testing at ODHL and samples to be shipped to CDC for further characterization, if needed, within the 7-day 2-8°C storage condition limit.
- Be mindful of the outside temperatures and ensure plenty of dry ice or ice packs are included.
- An ODH Microbiology Submission form must be enclosed in the package with the specimen. **The form must contain the ODRS ID provided by CCCHD.**
- Specimens can be received at ODHL Monday-Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm unless special arrangements have been made. Approved samples that arrive before 11:00 am will be tested the same day. Samples that arrive after 11:00 am will be tested the next business day.

General Infection Control Considerations:

General infection control consideration for patients with suspected monkeypox infection include:

- Notify infection prevention and control personnel of patients with suspected monkeypox infection.
- Recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for healthcare providers:
 - Gown.
 - Gloves.
 - Eye protection (i.e., goggles or face shield that covers the front and sides of the face).
 - NIOSH-approved particulate respirator equipped with N95 filters or higher.
- Place patient in single-person room with a dedicated bathroom; special air handling is not required.
 - Conduct aerosol-generating procedures or procedures likely to spread oral secretions in an airborne infection isolation room.
 - In general, in-person visitation should be limited while the patient is infectious and alternative modes of communication encouraged. Visitors entering the patient room should be provided with instruction and use of appropriate PPE.
- If tolerated, the patient should wear a surgical mask and cover any exposed skin lesions to the extent possible.
- Patients who do not require hospitalization should stay home except to receive medical care, isolate in a room or area separate from others, and limit contact with other family members and pets when possible.
- Isolation precautions should be maintained until all lesions have crusted, crusts have separated, and a fresh layer of skin has formed underneath.
- For further information, see the CDC's [Monkeypox: Infection Control in Healthcare Settings webpage](#).



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Resources:

CDC Monkeypox: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html>

Clinician FAQs: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/faq.html>

Monkeypox FAQ: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/faq.html>

US Map & Case Count: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/us-map.html>

If you are receiving this health alert via fax, please visit the CCCHD website (http://ccchd.com/?page_id=870) or follow the QR code below to view a digital copy with clickable links. If you wish to receive health alerts electronically in the future, please contact asauter@ccchd.com.

Alert Details

Date: 07/18/2022

Time Sensitivity: Immediate

To: Medical offices, Urgent Cares, Clinics, Hospitals, Laboratories and ICPs

Target Audience: Physicians, PA, NP, Nurses, Medical Staff, ICP staff, and Laboratorians

Relevance to Public Health: High Concern

