

Collection & Transport of Possible Monkeypox Specimens for Testing at NPHL

Notes:

- **Permission Required by State or Local Public Health Department:**
Local Health Department 24/7/365 contact number: _____
DHHS Office of Epidemiology (402) 471-2937 [after hours 402-471-1983]
Call NPHL (24/7 pager 402.888.5588) prior to specimen collection.
- Specimens must arrive at NPHL by 1pm Monday-Friday to obtain results that same day. Off-hour's testing will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Follow the Identify, Isolate, and Inform Strategy to Prevent the Spread of Monkeypox
<https://netec.org/2022/05/31/monkeypox-infection-prevention-controls-and-waste-management>

Specimen Collection:

- Health care personnel should strictly adhere to standard, contact, and droplet precautions when collection specimens to include a NIOSH-approved, fit-tested N-95 respirator, gown, gloves, and eye protection (face shield or goggles).
- Two people are recommended for collection and packaging of a specimen.
- **Materials required:**
 - ✓ PPE (gloves, gown, and NIOSH-approved N-95 masks)
 - ✓ Required specimen collection devices:
 - Four sterile, synthetic swabs (including, but not limited to polyester, nylon or dacron) with a plastic, wood, or thin aluminum shaft. Do not use cotton swabs.
 - Four Sterile 1.5-2.0 mL screw top O-ring tube (a screw top tube such as a 15 mL conical tube could substitute).

Note: NPHL will only provide collection material in cases of emergency. **Call NPHL 402-888-5588.**

- ✓ Parafilm or tape to secure lid
 - ✓ Disinfectant wipes
 - ✓ Large adsorbent pads/chux
 - ✓ Medical biohazard waste container
 - ✓ Printed patient labels with 2 patient identifiers, date, time, initials and source.
 - ✓ Small bio-hazard specimen bag with absorbent sleeve
 - ✓ Large bio-hazard specimen bag
 - ✓ Cool Shield Bubble Mailer
 - ✓ Category B box and FedEx Overpak if shipping by FedEx
 - ✓ Category B box if shipping by ground courier
 - ✓ Gel-Pack, pre-freeze overnight
- **Collection Instructions:**
 - Disinfect a work surface at bedside with approved disinfectant wipes.
 - Lay out supplies, work from clean to dirty side with medical waste container nearby. Lay gloves and disinfectant wipes out, so not to touch their original containers.
 - Place 4 disinfectant wipes side by side on the disinfected work area to place tubed specimens.
 - **Perform hand hygiene and double glove.**
 - Follow CDC guidance for monkeypox specimen collection.
<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/prep-collection-specimens.html>
 - Using the sterile dry swabs, collect by vigorously rubbing two (2) swabs simultaneously from each of two (2) separate weeping vesicles, generating a minimum of 4 swabs for submission.
 - Each swab should be individually placed into a sterile tube. Take care not to mix up sites.
 - Place each specimen tube on a separate disinfectant wipe.
 - **Perform hand hygiene, remove external gloves, and don clean gloves.**
 - Pick up each specimen tube with a clean disinfectant wipe, wipe each specimen container tube with second disinfectant wipe and set tube on a clean absorbent chux.

- Perform hand hygiene, remove external gloves, and don clean gloves while tubes dry.
- Place pre-printed label on each dry specimen tube or manually write with two 2 patient identifiers.
- Write persons initials who collect, date, time on each tube.
- **Write exact location or source of vesicle** ie) Left upper arm
- Parafilm or tape around lid to secure.
- Place each specimen tube in absorbent sleeve (Fig 1A).
- Place sleeve into small biohazard specimen bag.
- Wipe outside of both sides of small bag with a disinfectant wipe.
- Place into the larger specimen bag.
- Place specimen bag on a clean disinfectant wipe.
- Perform hand hygiene, remove external gloves, don clean gloves.
- Use new wipe to hold corner of larger specimen bag and carefully hand over to designed person outside of isolation room. (Fig. 1B)
- Lab can hold silver bubble-wrap bag outside isolation room door, for isolation room staff to carefully drop in without lab touching.



Figure 1A

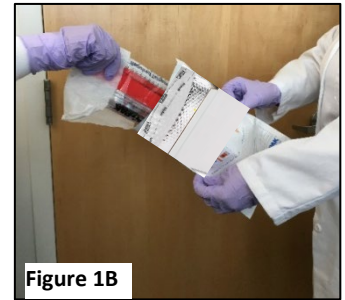


Figure 1B

Package specimen for transport:

- Personnel designated to package specimens outside the isolation room should wear a disposable or single use gown, gloves and procedure mask when receiving specimen. (Fig. 1B)
- The shipper is responsible for complying with all packaging and shipping regulations of Category B.
- Packaging instructions
 - ✓ If using white shippers, (Fig3). Add frozen gel packs, seal. Place inside shipping box.
 - ✓ If using NPHL brown shippers with round plastic vessel, add frozen gelpack inside bubble mailer, seal. Fit mailer into round vessel, seal. Place in box (Fig2).
- Place completed copy of **NPHL Test Request Form** inside box on very top before closing lids of shipping box.
- Depending on type of transport:
 - **If sent by routine NPHL Ground Courier**
 - Place silver bubble-wrap into box or vessel. Add NPHL form, close lid, seal box with tape.
 - Complete yellow highlighted area on outside of box with shipper's name, address, contact number.
 - Complete Category B Shipping Paper (provided in box)
 - Shipper (person physically packaging) full name, address, phone number, same as listed outside of box.
 - List of Contents – list suspected organism shipped.
 - Total Quantity – list number of plates or tubes
 - Print Responsible Person Name (if different than shipper), write signature and date.
 - Fold and place in pouch outside of box or tape to box.
 - **If sent by FedEx –**
 - Place Silver bubble wrap into white Tyvek bag or vessel, add NPHL form, close lid, seal box with tape.
 - White boxes must go into FedEx “Overpak” provided by NPHL.
 - Complete yellow highlighted area on outside of box with shipper's name, address, contact number.
 - Call NPHL (402) 559-9444 for AirBill or complete at your facility using billing reference 3353013476.
 - Recipient/Consignee – use address on NPHL Test Request Form
 - Hand write “UN3373 Category B, Biological Substance” on bottom FedEx Airway Bill
 - Place Airbill paperwork into pouch and attached to FedEx OverPak.
- Make copies of all paperwork (requisition, shipping paper, airway bill) and save for 2 years

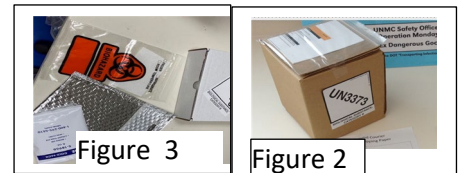


Figure 3

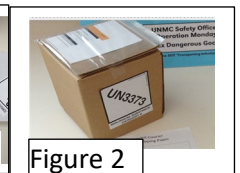


Figure 2

Shipment of Package:

- Give to NPHL ground courier if routinely picks up. Questions on routine couriers go to NPHL Client Services 402-559-6420 / 800-334-0459. Hours open are Monday-Friday 24/7 Saturday, and Sunday until 3pm. After 3pm, use On-Call Pager: 402-888-2086.
- If not on routine route, specimen must be shipped by FedEx. Call NPHL shipping personnel (402) 559-9444 for FedEx Kit. STAT ground courier can only be ordered upon approval by NPHL.
- Call the 24/7 NPHL pager at the time the shipment is transported at 402-888-5588.