

# Collection & Transport of Specimens for Testing of Possible Monkeypox at NPHL

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## 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]  
NPHL (24/7 pager 402.888.5588) for Transport Instructions
- 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 face protection)
  - ✓ Required specimen collection devices:
    - Four Dacron or polyester swabs (do not use cotton swabs with wooden shafts).
    - 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
- ✓ Small bio-hazard specimen bag with absorbent sleeve
- ✓ Large bio-hazard specimen bag
- ✓ Category B box and FedEx Overpak if shipping by FedEx, UPS
- ✓ Gel-Pack, pre-freeze overnight
- **Collection Instructions:**
  - Disinfect a work surface at bedside by disinfecting with disinfectant wipes.
  - Lay out supplies, work from clean to dirty side with medical waste container nearby.
  - 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 the sterile tube.
  - 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 disinfectant wipe., wipe each specimen container tube with the disinfectant and set tube on a clean absorbent chux.

- Perform hand hygiene, remove external gloves, and don clean gloves.
- Place pre-printed label on each specimen tube or manually write with two 2 patient identifiers.
- Place initial, date, and time on each tube
- 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.
- Depending on method of transport, drop bag into:
  - White Tyvek™ envelope (Fig 1B) if FedEx is transporting.
  - Category B box if transporting by Ground Courier



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.
- The shipper is responsible for complying with all regulations for packaging and labeling of a Category B shipment.
- Packaging instructions
  - If using white shippers, place large bag & frozen gel packs into silver thermo bubble-wrap (Fig3).
  - If using NPHL brown shippers with round plastic vessel, place specimens & frozen gel packs into silver thermo bubble-wrap, fit into round vessel, seal. Place in box (Fig2).
  - Complete a copy of the *NPHL Test Request Form* ([NPHL Test Request Form - Fillable March2020.pdf](#)) and place inside box.
  - Close lid and seal box using shipping tape. Depending on type of transport:
    - **If sent by NPHL Ground Courier Category B Shipping Paper (provided in box)**
      - Shipper (person physically packaging) full name, address, phone number, same as listed on 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.
      - Recipient/Consignee – NPHL address should be preprinted on box
    - **FedEx Shipping** – FedEx Airway bill/thermo FedEx label is placed on outside, on top of box. Call NPHL to provide Airway bill.
      - Shipper full name, address and phone number, same as listed on outside of box.
      - Recipient/Consignee – use address on NPHL Test Request Form
      - Hand write “UN3373 Category B, Biological Substance” on FedEx Airway Bill
      - Place Airbill paperwork into clear re-sealable pouch attached to top flap of box.
      - White boxes sent by FedEx must go into FedEx “Overpak” provided by NPHL.
  - Make copies of all paperwork (requisition, shipping paper, airway bill) and save for 2 years

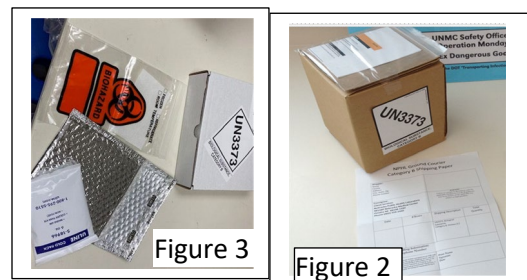


Figure 3

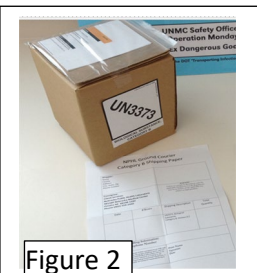


Figure 2

## Shipment of Package:

- Arrange for commercial courier if needed
- For a local ground courier, call the NPHL Client Services to arrange for courier pickup at 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
- Call the 24/7 NPHL pager at the time the shipment is transported at 402-888-5588