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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION OF SPECIMENS FOR HUMAN MONKEYPOX VIRUS (MPOX) TESTING

Immediately report suspect cases of Human Monkeypox virus to the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) by calling 802-863-7240, option 2 (24 hours, 7 days/week). Specimens will **NOT** be tested without prior approval.

The assay used at VDHL will **NOT identify Smallpox**. If Smallpox is suspected, please contact Epidemiology immediately.

KIT CONTENTS

Supplies in this box will allow for the collection of **TWO different lesions:**

- Two sterile applicator swabs
- Two 15mL tubes containing viral transport media (VTM)
- Two biohazard bags
- One cold pack **(remove and freeze prior to use)**
- Two Micro 220 VDHL Clinical Test Request forms (one per lesion)
- One appropriately labeled styrofoam cooler shipping box

Personnel who collect specimens should use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Refer to *Collecting and Handling Specimens for Monkeypox PCR Testing | Monkeypox | CDC* for more information on collection, packaging, and transportation of suspected MPOX specimens.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

A total of **TWO** lesion sites can be collected with this kit. Select lesions from different locations on the body and/or from lesions with differing appearances. Unroofing the lesion is not necessary.

a. Rub a single lesion (Site 1) **VIGOROUSLY** with **ONE** sterile applicator swab. Rub as vigorously as the patient can tolerate. Failure to rub vigorously can result in an inadequate specimen and yield an inconclusive result.
b. Insert the swab into one 15mL VTM tube and break off the end of the swab shaft.
c. Ensure cap is screwed onto the tube tightly.
d. Label specimen container with the following:
    - Patient name
    - Date of birth
    - Lesion location (e.g. right foot, abdomen, left thigh)
    - Collection date/time
e. Place the VTM tube into a biohazard bag. Close and seal the bag.
f. Complete one Micro 220 Clinical Test Request form. On page 1, include the lesion location in the **Specimen Site** section. On page 2 for the test request, in the **Molecular Virology** section, mark “MPOX PCR”.
g. Place the Micro 220 Clinical Test Request form into the outer biohazard bag pocket. Do NOT put the form inside with the specimens.
h. Repeat step a.-g. for a **SECOND** lesion (Site 2).

SPECIMEN STORAGE AND SHIPMENT

a. Storage: Room temperature (15-30°C) for up to 48 hours.
Refrigerated (2–8°C) for up to 7 days.
b. Ship at refrigerated temperature (2-8°C). Do NOT use wet ice.
c. Specimen must arrive at the laboratory within 7 days of collection.
d. The outer box should be sealed closed and labeled with “NVO”.
e. Complete the “From, Person Responsible (Name and Phone number)” labels that are on the outside of the shipping box. The name of the person responsible would be the person who can answer questions about the shipment.
f. **Do not send to VDHL without prior approval**. Please leave a name and contact number during your initial conversation with the Epi team so that lab staff can reach you to discuss best means of specimen transport.

Specimens May be Rejected for the Following Reasons:

- Less than **two** patient identifiers or mismatched patient identifiers on the specimen and/or Micro 220 Clinical Test Request form
- Micro 220 VDHL Clinical Test Request form is placed inside the biohazard bag with the specimen
- Improper shipment temperature (not shipped with a frozen cold pack)
- Too old to test (>7 days from the date of collection)
- Inappropriate specimen type
- No swab received in VTM
- Dry swab submitted with no VTM
- Date/Time of collection missing
- Specimen leaked in transit

TEST SCHEDULE

Monday through Friday. Results will be available the day of receipt if specimens are received at VDHL by 2pm. Specimens received after 2pm will be tested on the next workday. Saturday testing will be performed on a case-by-case basis. Results will be faxed during business hours or emailed if your facility has set up to receive emailed reports. For faxed results, please write your fax number in the Clinical Lab/Practice section on the Micro 220 Clinical Test Request form.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A VDHL KIT

The following is required if using your own supplies to ship a specimen to VDHL:

- Nylon flocked swab or an equivalent synthetic swab
- Sterile viral transport media tube/universal transport media containing at least 1mL of VTM
- A completed Micro 220 VDHL Clinical Test Request form for each sample
- Cold packs
- Outer shipping container labeled “NVO”, UN3373 label, address label (To/From), and a person responsible (name/phone number) label
- The size of the outer shipping container must NOT exceed 14” X 14”

Follow shipping regulations for UN 3373 Biological Substance, Category B. All shipments must comply with current DOT/IATA shipping regulations. If you are not shipping specimens to VDHL and using another laboratory, please note collection instructions may be different.