Monkeypox Collection and Shipping

Monkeypox Specimen Collection Instructions

STEP 1: Label each collection tube with the following:
- Patient name
- Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy)
- Date of collection (mm/dd/yyyy)
- Specimen site/type

STEP 2: Simultaneously use TWO sterile synthetic swabs (i.e. polyester, rayon, or Dacron) to vigorously swab the base of the lesion. *If vesicles or pustules unroof, use swabs to soak up lesion fluid.

STEP 3: Place swabs from each lesion sampled into their own screw-capped, plastic aliquot tubes WITHOUT transport media. Ensure both tubes are properly labeled.

STEP 4: Within one hour of collection, place all specimens in a 2-8°C refrigerator or a freezer at -20°C or colder

STEP 5: Specimens need to be shipped cold or frozen
- IF specimen will be received at NCSLPH ≤ 5 days of collection: specimen must be kept between 2-8°C; package and ship to NCSLPH with frozen cold packs
- IF specimen will be received at NCSLPH >5 days after specimen collected: specimen must be frozen at -20°C or lower; ship on dry ice to ensure received at NCSLPH frozen (-20°C or lower).

STEP 6: Complete the BTEP Specimen Submission Form

STEP 7: Contact BTEP Unit (919-807-8600) only if you have submission questions.

STEP 8: Ship package using Category B shipping. Category B shipping instructions can be found here: Cat_B_Poster_v3 (dot.gov).

STEP 9: Label package appropriately

For State Courier:
North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health
ATTN: Bioterrorism & Emerging Pathogens Unit
1918 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1918

For UPS, FEDEX, and other courier services:*
North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health
ATTN: Bioterrorism & Emerging Pathogens Unit
4312 District Drive
Raleigh, NC 27607

*Ship overnight delivery. You must specify Saturday delivery if shipping on Friday.

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