

WHAT IS MONKEYPOX?

Monkeypox is a rare, but potentially serious, viral illness that can spread between people (monkeypox transmission). It can be spread through respiratory droplets (typically in a prolonged and close setting), through skin or mucous membrane contact with monkeypox sores, or through shared items that have been contaminated with fluids or sores of a person with monkeypox.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS?

- **Rash** (can appear similar to blisters or pimples) that can occur on the hands, feet, chest, anus, genitals, mouth, and face. The rash has different stages before healing completely.
- **Fever**
- **Swollen lymph nodes**
- **Headache**
- **Chills**
- **Muscle aches**
- **Exhaustion**

It is important to note that in cases of cutaneous or mucocutaneous inoculation, skin lesions may appear at the site of primary inoculation, and some patients may not develop a widespread rash. Lesions may be located on the genital or perianal area alone, and some patients may present with proctitis. Accordingly, monkeypox infection is sometimes confused with sexually transmitted infections like syphilis, as well as other bacterial and viral illnesses, such as herpes or varicella zoster virus infection.

HOW DO I ORDER?

For patients that present with the signs and symptoms of monkeypox virus and where monkeypox virus is suspected, monkeypox can be ordered as an Add-on test to the Wound panel of our infectious disease requisition.

WHAT SAMPLE TYPES ARE ACCEPTABLE FOR MONKEYPOX TESTING?

The only acceptable sample type for monkeypox testing is a swab of the lesion or sore. Blood, urine, saliva, etc., are NOT acceptable sample types.

HOW DO I COLLECT A SAMPLE?

Please see our “Wound Specimen Collection Instructions” for details on how to collect a sample from the lesions or sores that are relevant for the specific patient. Additional information for successful collection of monkeypox specimens can be found at:



[Additional information for successful collection of monkeypox specimen](#)

Scan QR Code to see monkeypox specimen collection instructions.



Scan QR Code to see the Wound Pathogens collection instructions.



Scan QR Code to download the Infectious Disease PCR form.