

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

## Notes:

- Specimens must arrive at NPHL by 12 pm (noon) Monday-Friday to obtain results that same day.
- Specimens must be ordered in NUIrt under the “Outbreak” tab
- Follow the “Identify, Isolate, Inform, Initiate Lab Testing” 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 airborne precautions when caring for patients and collecting specimens to include a NIOSH-approved, fit-tested N-95 respirator or higher-level respirator, gown, gloves, and eye protection (face shield or goggles). Special air handling such as an airborne infection isolation room (AIIR) is not required but recommended for consideration Two people are recommended for collection and packaging of a specimen.

### Materials required:

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

- ✓ PPE (gloves, gown, NIOSH-approved N-95 masks, eye protection)
  - ✓ 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.
      - Suggested: Puritan sterile polyester tipped applicators (ref 25-8061PD)
    - Four sterile screw top containers:
      - Suggested: 15 mL conical tubes (ref 352097)
  - ✓ Parafilm or tape to secure lid
  - ✓ Disinfectant wipes
  - ✓ Large adsorbent pads/chux
  - ✓ Medical biohazard waste container
  - ✓ Pre-printed or manual patient labels with 2 patient identifiers
  - ✓ Small biohazard specimen bag with absorbent material or sleeve if available
  - ✓ Large biohazard specimen bag
  - ✓ Silver *Cool Shield* Bubble Mailer (Insulated)
  - ✓ Category B box and FedEx Overpak if shipping by FedEx
  - ✓ Category B box if shipping by all ground couriers
  - ✓ 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 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 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 label with two 2 patient identifiers on each dry specimen tube.
- Write initials of person collecting, add date, time of collection on each tube.
- **Write exact location or source of vesicle** i.e.) Left upper arm on each tube.
- Parafilm or tape around lid to secure.
- Place each specimen tube in absorbent sleeve (Fig 1A) if available.
- Place sleeve into small biohazard specimen bag.
- Disinfect outside of both sides of small bags with 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 *Cool Shield* bubble mailer outside isolation room door, isolation room staff carefully drops in mailer without touching.



Figure 1A

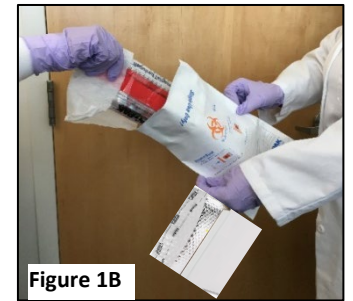


Figure 1B

## Order Placement:

- Order test in NUIrt under the *Outbreaks* drop down. Follow prompts on the screen to enter in all pertinent information and submit order.
- No NUIrt account? Sign up at <https://nphl.org/phlip.cfm>
- Once order is placed, print off Batch List from NUIrt and place in the window sleeve on outside of bag.
- Manually populate the shaded areas of the **NPHL Test Request Form** at <https://nphl.org>
  - Place a checkmark next to “Orthopoxviruses” in the bottom left section.

## Package specimen for transport:

- The shipper MUST comply with all DOT packaging and shipping regulations of UN3373 Category B.
- 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)
- Packaging instructions:
  - ✓ If using white shippers, (Fig3). Add frozen gelpack to Cool Shield, seal. Place inside shipping box.
  - ✓ If using NPHL brown shippers with round plastic vessel, add frozen gel-pack inside Cool Shield, seal. Fit in round vessel, seal. Place in box (Fig2).
- Place **completed** NPHL Test Request Form inside box on very top.
- Depending on type of transport:



Figure 3

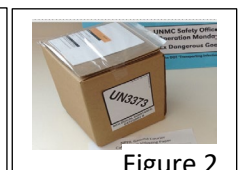


Figure 2

- **If sent by routine NPHL Ground Courier – All monkeypox must be transported from location of collection to NPHL in a proper box labeled UN3373 Category B Biological Substance (provided by NPHL).**
- **The only exception of transport without the box is using the private, exclusive courier, ProMed™ in the Lincoln/Omaha area. This exception must be approved by NPHL.**
  - Place Cool-Shield into box or vessel. Add NPHL Test Request form, close lid, seal box with tape.
  - Complete shipper and consignee address, both areas on outside of box and on Shipping Paper.
    - Shipper (person physically packaging) full name, address, phone number, same as 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 Cool Shield into white Tyvek bag or vessel, add NPHL form on top, 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 36-5301-3204-001.
  - Recipient/Consignee – use address on NPHL Test Request Form
  - Handwrite “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

**Shipment of Package:**

- Give to NPHL ground courier if routine pick-up available.
- If no routine route set up, 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.
- Questions on routine couriers should go to NPHL Client Services at 402-559-6420 / 800-334-0459.
- Client Services is available Monday-Friday 24/7. However, Saturday, and Sunday are open until 3pm. After 3pm, use On-Call Pager: 402-888-2086.