SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY (SJCPHL)

1601 EAST HAZLETON AVE. STOCKTON, CA 95205.

SJC PHS lab Phone: 209-468-3460

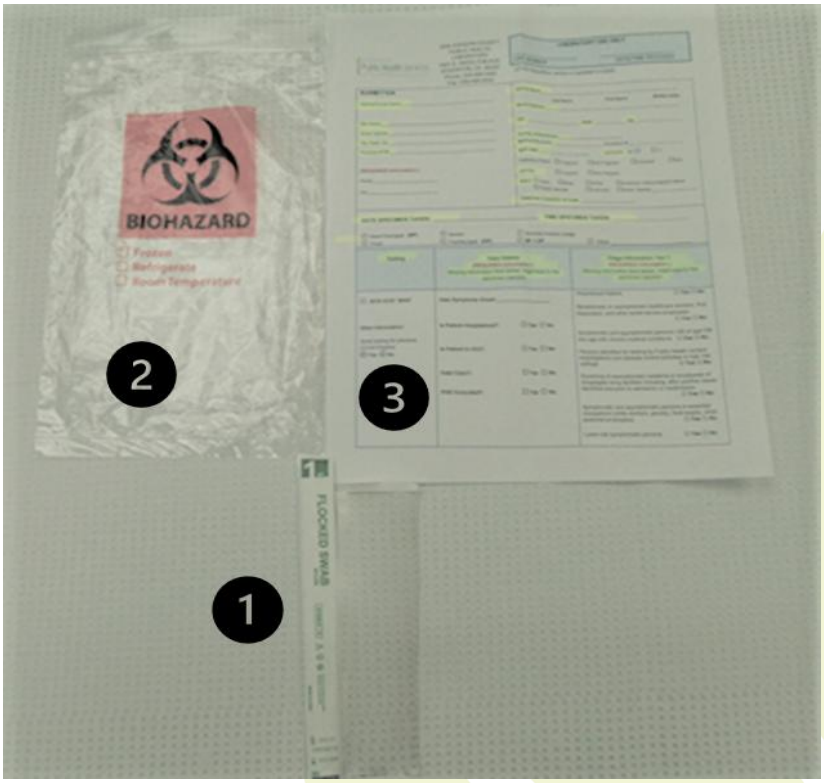
MONKEY POX SPECIMEN COLLECTION PROCEDURE:

Ver. 10.30.26

Use the following procedure for collection and submission of suspected Monkey Pox specimens for laboratory testing.

I. Supplies needed (can be provided by SJCPHL):

1. Sterile swab (includes flexible and plastic shaft swab)
2. Biohazard labelled Zip lock bags with outer sleeve
3. Requisition form (fill out all the fields)



II. Monkey pox specimen type: Lesion Dry Swab and Lesion Swab in VTM

III. Collection of specimens:

1. Swabs of lesions using only sterile nylon, polyester, or Dacron swabs with plastic or aluminum shaft. **DO NOT** use calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden shafts, as they may contain substances that inactivate some viruses and inhibit PCR testing.

   Per the September 13,2024 CDC guidelines , sample two (2) monkeypox (MPX) lesions per patient. Unroofing or aspiration of lesions is not necessary, nor recommended, due to risk for sharps injury. Each lesion should be sampled with 2 separate swabs to accommodate confirmatory testing, if needed.

   Place each swab in separate containers.
   a. Vigorously swab or brush lesion with two separate sterile dry swabs
   b. Break off swabs into separate 1.5- or 2-mL screw-capped tubes with O-ring or place each entire swab in a separate sterile container.
   c. Please collect two (2) swabs per lesion. Submit one swab dry (without Viral Transport Medium) and one swab in Viral Transport Medium (VTM).
   d. Tighten cap on specimen collection containers. Seal the cap using parafilm.

3. Label collection container with patient name, DOB, location of lesion, Date and Time of Collection. Avoid gel/ink pens to label the tubes. Use permanent Sharpie pens for labels.

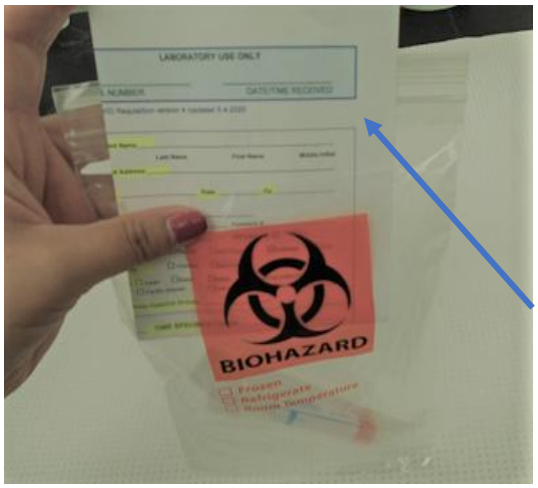
4. Place specimens **inside the zip lock** specimen bag.



Specimens kept

inside the zip lock bag

5. Place laboratory form **in the outer sleeve** of zip-lock bag to separate it from the specimen.



6. Complete all the required information on the laboratory requisition form.

   a. Test(s) Requested: **Poxvirus PCR**
   b. Disease Suspected: Monkeypox
   c. Vaccination History: date of smallpox (vaccinia) vaccination, if administered
   d. Clinical Findings and Symptoms: date of rash onset
   e. Travel Information: travel and/or exposure history

7. Store the specimen at 2-8°C for up to 72 hours after collection. If a delay in testing or shipping is expected, store the specimen at -80°C or colder.

8. Coordinate with the SJCPHL for either specimen pickup or specimen drop off. Specimens must be transported at 2-8°C.

Note: Specimens that test positive may be referred to the CDC for additional testing.

IV. Unacceptable specimens:

- Any tubes that lack labelling; such vials are unacceptable and will be rejected.
- Calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden shafts are unacceptable as they may contain substances that inactivate some viruses and inhibit PCR testing.
- Specimens received without a test requisition form.
- Do not use cotton swabs or swabs that have foam or other material placed at the bottom.