

## San Diego County Public Health Laboratory Mpox Clade I Test Approval and Lesion Swab Collection Guide

**Step 1:** For external providers, request approval for clade-specific testing for suspect MPOX Clade I cases by contacting SD County Public Health Services (for epidemiological criteria and clinical assessment), prior to sending sample for testing. Call phone # (619) 692-5500 during regular business hours (M-F 8:00am-5:00pm) and phone # (858) 565-5255 for afterhours, weekend, and holiday approvals. If you reach a voice mail, please leave a message requesting for a call back and leave a direct number where you can be reached. For internal County clinicians contact San Diego County Public Health Laboratory at phone# (619) 990-1470 during business hours and phone # (619) 666-8889 after hours for requesting specimen pick up.

**Step 2:** Once clinical/epidemiological assessment is complete and testing is approved, please complete San Diego County Public Health laboratory requisition form for submission. Use online fillable form [SD County Test Req.pdf \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)

**Step 3:** Send **LESION swab collected in VTM (viral transport media)** to San Diego County public health laboratory for further testing. Specimens must be shipped as **Category B**. Please note that prior to shipment, contact San Diego Public Health Lab at phone# (619) 990-1470 during business hours and at phone # (619) 666-8889 after hours for notification (**San Diego Health Lab specimen receiving address is – 5570 Overland Ave, Suite 103, CA 92123**).

**For specimen collection see instructions below (wear appropriate PPE):**

- a. **Collect 2 swabs from each lesion**, by vigorously swabbing and applying firm pressure to collect adequate DNA. Put 2 swabs in separate containers. One set of swabs is for preliminary testing and the other set will be for confirmatory testing. Make sure that both swabs touch the same lesion. Multiple collections can be made depending on lesion location.
- b. **Acceptable sample types** – Swab in VTM (preferred) or Dry swab.
- c. **Acceptable swab type** – sterile synthetic swabs (including polyester, Dacron, nylon) with a plastic, wood, or thin aluminum (wire) shaft should be used to collect specimens. **Do not use cotton swabs.**
- d. Avoid touching the length of the swab shaft that will be submerged in viral transport media.
- e. See reference - [Testing Patients for Monkeypox \(cdc.gov\)](#), [phase of the rash](#), [Guidelines for Collecting and Handling Specimens for Mpox Testing | Mpox | Poxvirus | CDC](#).
- f. Label specimen with at least 2 unique identifiers (Patient name and date of birth).
- g. Store specimens refrigerated (2–8°C) or frozen (-20°C or lower) within an hour after collection. Refrigerated specimens can be stored for up to 7 days and frozen specimens for up to 60 days.

**For specimen transport follow the instructions:** Once specimen collection is complete, providers can schedule specimen drop off by calling your Provider Central Laboratory or San Diego County Epidemiology Unit, to San Diego County Public Health Laboratory. If you do not have a courier, drop off service available, call San Diego County Public Health Laboratory at phone# (619) 990-1470 during business hours and at phone # (619) 666-8889 after hours for requesting specimen pick up.

Providers and Sentinel Labs please follow these instructions.



**Additional forms for confirmatory testing:** [VRDL General Purpose Submittal Form \(ca.gov\)](https://www.vrdl.org/General-Purpose-Submittal-Form)

**Important Contacts:**

San Diego County Public Health Laboratory

- Business hour phone number (619) 990-1470 or (619) 384-2286 or (619) 964-2301
- After hour phone number (619) 666-8889

San Diego County Public Health Epidemiology Unit

- Business hour phone number (619) 692-5500
- After hour phone number (858) 565-5255 (Ask for duty officer)

