



**DATE:** June 1, 2022  
**TO:** Healthcare Providers  
**FROM:** Dr. Maggie Park, Public Health Officer

Please distribute to all providers and relevant medical staff in your office.

## **HEALTH ADVISORY**

### **Monkeypox**

#### **Situation:**

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a health advisory on May 20, 2022, regarding a confirmed case of monkeypox virus infection in Massachusetts as well as multiple clusters of the monkeypox virus infections in other countries. Per CDC, as of May 31, 2022, there have been 18 confirmed cases of Monkeypox/Orthopox in the United States, including 3 in California. The 3 cases in California have all been in Sacramento County and are reportedly related. Monkeypox is currently an extremely rare diagnosis and evaluations for patients with rash should take into consideration other more common causes of rash. There have been no suspected or confirmed cases in San Joaquin County.

#### **Clinical Presentation:**

The classic presentation of monkeypox disease includes a flu-like illness lasting a few days, followed by a characteristic rash. Presenting symptoms typically include fever, headache, myalgia, and possibly chills and new lymphadenopathy. The rash is distinctive and historically has started 1-3 days after fever with a rash that may affect the face and extremities (including palms and soles). Mucous membranes and genitalia may be involved. Recently reported cases have had onset with perianal or genital lesions in the absence of flu-like symptoms. The appearance and progression of the rash is very characteristic, evolving sequentially from macules (lesions with a flat base) to papules (slightly raised firm lesions), vesicles (lesions filled with clear fluid), pustules (lesions filled with yellow fluid), and crusts which dry up and fall off. The incubation period is usually 7-14 days but can range from 5-21 days. The illness typically lasts for about 2-4 weeks. A person is considered infectious once symptoms begin and until all lesions scab and scabs fall off. For more clinical recognition guidance, follow this link: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/clinical-recognition.html>

#### **ACTIONS REQUESTED OF CLINICIANS:**

- **Suspect** monkeypox in a patient with an unexplained rash (unlikely to be secondary syphilis, herpes, varicella, molluscum contagiosum, or other diagnosis) that is consistent with monkeypox. Conduct a complete history and physical exam.



Suggestive history includes:

- Recent travel to Central or West African countries or other areas reporting monkeypox cases; and/or
  - Contact with a person or people who have a similar appearing rash or who received a diagnosis of confirmed or probable monkeypox; and/or
  - Is a man who regularly has intimate in-person contact with other men.
- **Implement** contact and airborne precautions immediately for suspected cases. Place suspected cases as soon as possible in a single-person exam room with the door closed, or an airborne infection isolation room. The patient should remain masked with a respirator or surgical mask, and any exposed skin lesions should be covered with a bandage, sheet, or gown. Personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers should include gowns, gloves, eye protection (goggles or face shield), and a N95 or equivalent or higher-level respirator. Any EPA-registered hospital-grade disinfectant can be used for cleaning and disinfecting environmental surfaces.
  - **Report** suspected monkeypox cases immediately by calling the San Joaquin County Public Health Services (SJCPHS) Disease Control and Prevention (DCP) Program at (209) 468-3822. After hours, weekends, and holidays, please call (209) 468-6000 and ask to speak to the on-call public health nurse.
  - **Test** suspected cases that are determined to be high on the differential diagnosis in consultation with SJCPHS. Wearing appropriate PPE, collect 2 specimens from each lesion. If multiple lesions are present, collect specimens from different locations on the body and/or from lesions with different appearances; or if only 1 location is affected, collect specimens from more than 1 lesion. At this time, up to a total of 3 lesions should be swabbed, for a total of 6 swabs collected. Collect specimens as follows:
    - 1) Vigorously swab lesion (unroofing, if possible) with two separate sterile dry polyester or Dacron swabs. Careful unroofing of the lesion may improve testing results.
    - 2) Break off each swab into a sterile 1.5- or 2-mL screw-capped tube with O-ring, or place each entire swab into a separate sterile container. Keep swab dry; do not add or store in any type of transport media.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL) is unable to accept specimens overnight or on weekends. If specimens are collected after hours, specimens should be stored at 4C if shipped within 24 to 72 hours; the specimen needs to be kept at -80C freezer if it will be held longer than 72 hours.



### **Treatment and Prevention:**

Most patients have mild disease and recover without medical intervention. Antiviral therapy of cases or post-exposure prophylactic immunization of contacts may be considered after consultation with SJCPHS, CDPH, and CDC.

Two vaccines licensed by Food and Drug Administration (FDA) can be considered for post-exposure prophylaxis in people who have had a high-risk exposure to monkeypox, as defined by CDC.

- **JYNNEOS** is a live, non-replicating vaccine
- **ACAM2000** is a live replicating vaccine

Vaccine should be given within 4 days of exposure to prevent disease but might reduce severity of disease up to 14 days after exposure.

Supplies of these products are only available from the federal Strategic National Stockpile.

### **Additional Information:**

- CDPH Health Advisory <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Health-Advisory-Monkeypox-Virus-5-27-22.aspx>
- CDC Monkeypox page: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/index.html>

For more information, call San Joaquin County Public Health Services  
Disease Control and Prevention (DCP) Program at (209) 468-3822



## **SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY (SJCPHL)**

1601 EAST HAZLETON AVE. STOCKTON, CA 95205.

PHS Health Dept Phone: **209-468-3822**

PHS lab Phone: **209-468-3460**

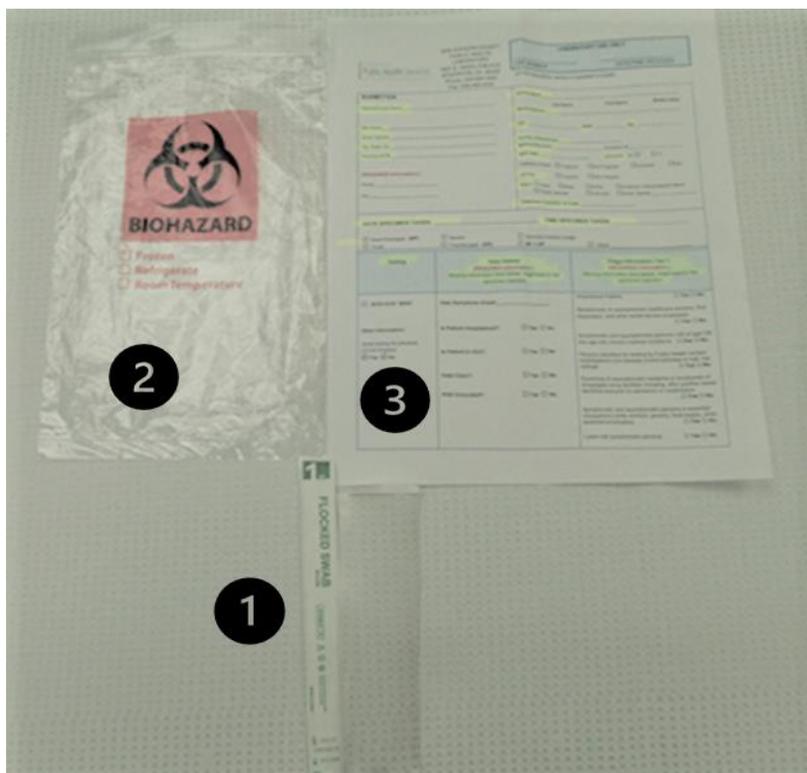
### **MONKEYPOX SPECIMEN COLLECTION PROCEDURE:**

**Evaluation of suspect cases and testing should be coordinated first with your local Public health department.**

**Use the following procedure for collection and submission of suspected Monkeypox 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. Monkeypox specimen type:** Lesion Dry Swab

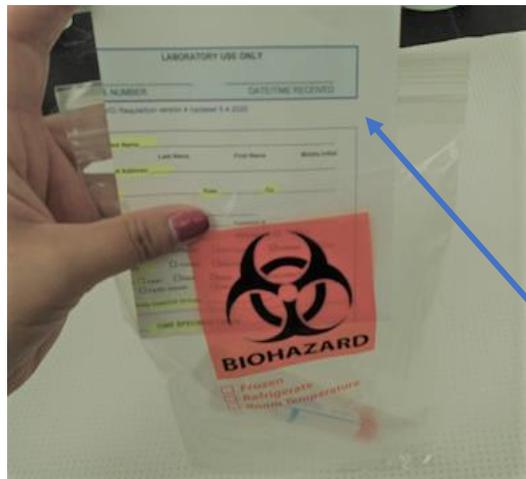
**III. Collection of specimens:**

1. Dry 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.
2. More than one lesion should be sampled, preferably from different body sites, for preliminary and confirmatory testing.
  - 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. **DO NOT add or store in viral or universal transport media**
  - 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.



*Form kept in the  
Outer sleeve*

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



#### **IV. Unacceptable specimens:**

- Specimens received without prior Public Health consultation
- Swab submissions in viral transport media are unacceptable and will be rejected.
- 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.



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY  
 PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY  
 1601 E. HAZELTON AVE.  
 STOCKTON, CA 95205  
 Phone: 209-468-3460  
 Fax: 209-468-0639  
 CLIA # 05D0643989

LABORATORY USE ONLY	
LAB. NUMBER _____	DATE/TIME RECEIVED _____

SUBMITTER	PATIENT INFORMATION
Agency/County Name: _____  Site Name: _____ Street Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Physician/NPI#: _____  <b>(REQUIRED information)</b>  Phone: _____ Fax: _____	Patient Name: _____ <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <span>Last Name</span> <span>First Name</span> <span>Middle Initial</span> </div> Street Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone: _____ County of Residence _____ Medical Record # _____ Accession # _____ Birth date: _____ GENDER: M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity: <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> non-Hispanic Race: <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ Pregnancy Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant <input type="checkbox"/> Not Pregnant <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Diagnosis Code/ICD 10 Code: _____

**DATE SPECIMEN TAKEN:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TIME SPECIMEN TAKEN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Specimen Source:**  
 Dry Swab (Lesions) using sterile Nylon, Polyester or Dacron swabs  Body site \_\_\_\_\_  
**Note:** Do not add or store in viral or universal transport media

Testing	Case History <b>(REQUIRED information)</b> Missing information from below might lead to the specimen rejection	Triage Information <b>(REQUIRED information)</b> Missing information from below might lead to the specimen rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Poxvirus PCR	Date onset symptoms (Rash): _____ Vaccination History <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, Date of Smallpox vaccine (Vaccinia): _____ Travel History <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Travel Information: _____ PHS Consulted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Symptomatic: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Disease Suspected: _____ Clinical Findings and Symptoms: Exposure History: _____ Contact with other individual <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No