



Monkeypox

SmartNotes

Monkeypox: CDC Guidelines for Collection, Storage, and Shipment of Specimens for Monkeypox Diagnosis

In response to increasing queries regarding viral transport media appropriate for collecting, handling and testing clinical specimens related to monkeypox, we take the opportunity to highlight interim guidelines from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

All testing for monkeypox should be conducted in consultation with a healthcare provider. Specimens should be collected as soon as possible once a decision has been made to pursue testing, regardless of the time of symptom onset. The guidance below addresses options for collection of specimens.





For initial diagnostic testing for monkeypox, the recommended specimen type is lesion material according to the CDC. For further characterization of the specimen at CDC, dry swabs of lesion material, swabs of lesion material in VTM, or crusts are acceptable. To ensure specimens are stored and shipped within the required timeframe, consultation with the CDC is recommended.

Two swabs from each lesion should be collected for testing. Using two sterile synthetic swabs (including, but not limited to polyester, nylon, or Dacron) with a plastic, wood, or thin aluminum shaft, swab the lesion vigorously to collect adequate DNA. Do not use cotton swabs.

Swabs and other specimens should each be placed in different containers. If using transport media, only VTM is accepted at CDC at this time; do not use universal or other transport media.

For more information about available viral transport media, visit: [thermofisher.com/viraltesting](https://www.thermofisher.com/viraltesting).

Thermo Fisher Scientific offers a portfolio of products which includes swabs and the following products are applicable to monkeypox sample collection.

Product code	Product	Pack size	
R12548	Polyester Tipped Oropharyngeal Swab, no breakpoint	1000/pk	
R12544	Disposable Sampling Swab, 100 mm breakpoint	100/pk	
R12680	Disposable Sampling Swab, 80 mm breakpoint	100/pk	
R12681	Disposable Sampling Swab, no breakpoint	96/pk	

References

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/prep-collection-specimens.html>

 To discuss products further, please contact your local Microbiology sales representative or email microbiology@thermofisher.com for support

For more information, visit
<https://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/>

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