



Public Health Division  
Communicable Disease

# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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## Monkeypox Clinician Testing Guidance

Revised 7/15/22

### For patients presenting with concern for monkeypox infection:

- Clinicians should implement appropriate infection prevention/control measures: [Infection Control: Healthcare Settings | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#)
- Providers should counsel patient(s) on appropriate isolation and infection control measures. Please see isolation instructions here: [Clinician FAQs | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#)
- Please provide patients with suspected monkeypox infection with a written work excuse.

### TESTING:

Please consider both [epidemiological and clinical criteria](#) when submitting specimens for testing. **When a monkeypox case is suspected, and testing is to be submitted, please send a completed [monkeypox screening form](#) to [HSACD@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:HSACD@santacruzcounty.us) or by fax to 831-454-5049**

Please follow-up with notification via phone to the Communicable Disease Unit at 831-454-4838. (This is a [provider](#) line.) If afterhours, or on the weekend, please call Netcom at 831-471-1170 and ask for the Public Health Manager on call.

### Available Labs:

1. **Public Health Lab (PHL) Testing: Lab testing through PHL requires that both epidemiological and clinical criteria be met AND requires submission of a [monkeypox screening form](#) and [PHL lab submittal form](#)**

Currently County of Santa Cruz is setup to be sending specimens to Santa Clara Public Health Lab (SCPHL). Ordering providers can ship specimens directly to the lab (2220 Moorpark Avenue, 2nd Floor, San Jose, CA 95128) or specimens may be dropped off at the Watsonville Health Center Lab (1430 Freedom Blvd, Suite D) or Santa Cruz Health Center Lab (1080 Emeline Ave) for courier to SCPHL. **If specimens are to be dropped off to Watsonville or Santa Cruz Health Center Lab, the Communicable Disease Unit, and the lab must be notified before sending specimens.**

### **Specimen collection for PHL:**

- Dry swabs of lesions, using sterile nylon, polyester, or Dacron swabs with plastic or aluminum shaft
- Follow PPE guidance when collecting specimens
- More than one lesion should be sampled (at minimum 2 separate lesions), preferably from different body sites for preliminary and confirmatory testing.
  - 1) If possible, unroof lesions with sterile needle;
  - 2) Vigorously swab each lesion with two separate sterile dry swabs;
  - 3) 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 **(dry)** container
    - a. If no other sterile dry containers are available, swabs can be placed in sterile urine specimen collection containers.
    - b. Do not use swabs from or place swabs into viral or universal transport media.
- Sample, label, and store each lesion separately
- Include a copy of the [PHL lab submittal form](#) for each specimen separately bagged

### **Specimen Storage for PHL**

Refrigerate (2–8°C) or freeze (-20°C or lower) specimens within an hour after collection. Store refrigerated specimens for up to 7 days and frozen specimens for up to 60 days. Refrigerated specimens should be sent within 7 days of collection; frozen specimens should be shipped within 60 days of collection.

## **2. Commercial Lab Testing:**

For clinics and providers with existing Labcorp or Quest Diagnostic accounts, please follow each lab's guidance for collection, storage, and shipping.

<https://www.labcorp.com/tests/140230/monkeypox-orthopoxvirus-dna-pcr>

<https://www.questdiagnostics.com/healthcare-professionals/about-our-tests/infectious-diseases/monkeypox>