

Do You Suspect Monkeypox?



Call the Alexandria Health Department (AHD) at 703.746.4951(FOR PROVIDERS ONLY)

Do not refer patients to call the health department directly

1. Call as soon as you suspect monkeypox, while the patient is still in the clinic. Do not wait for confirmatory or rule-out testing. AHD will help assess risk factors, arrange for testing, and instruct the patient on proper home isolation procedures.
2. After the patient has left, call AHD back to discuss healthcare worker exposure and proper exam room cleaning.

Infection Prevention Protocols

- **Use PPE during patient visit and cleaning:** Fit-tested N95 respirator, gloves, gown, and eye protection.
- Isolate the patient in a private exam room. No special air handling is needed.
- Limit exam room entry to only essential staff.

Key Monkeypox Clinical Features

Prodrome*:

- Fever
- Malaise
- Headache
- Lymphadenopathy
- Sore throat
- Cough

*the prodrome may be absent in some patients

Rash:

- Lesions are well circumscribed, deep seated, and often develop umbilication. Lesions may be localized to one area (ex: genitals)
- Lesions are relatively the same size and same stage of development on a single site of the body (ex: pustules on face or vesicles on legs)
- Lesions are often described as painful until the healing phase when they become itchy (crusts)
- Co-infection with other STIs does not rule out monkeypox

Testing:

How: 2 swabs per site, rub/brush vigorously (1 swab will go to the lab and one swab will go to CDC for confirmation). Refrigerate specimens until pick up.

What to use: two separate sterile dry polyester or Dacron swabs (do not use cotton swabs). COVID-19 swab or Varicella collection swab in a dry tube or vessel (e.g. urine cup acceptable).



Monkeypox Testing Information

Lab Testing Guidance

- Commercial Lab Testing
 - Monkeypox (Orthopoxvirus) testing is becoming more widely available through commercial labs.
 - Once available, providers can order the monkeypox test just as they normally would other tests.
 - As of 7/6 [Labcorp](#) offers monkeypox (Orthopoxvirus) testing
- State Lab Testing (Free– no cost to patient or provider)
 - If your practice does not have access to commercial lab monkeypox (Orthopoxvirus) testing, work with AHD (**call 703.746.4951**) to obtain approval for testing through our state public health laboratory, Department of Consolidated Laboratory (DCLS)

Table: Testing Instructions for Suspected Monkeypox (Orthopoxvirus)

Test Type	Specimen Type	What PPE to Wear	How to collect	Storage /Transport
Real time PCR	Collect dry swabs (2 swabs per site) - Pair dry lesion swabs from different parts of the body Collect 2-4 dry swabs of lesions from different parts of the body *Can use VZV or SARS-COV-2 collection swabs as long as they are placed into a dry tube (urine cups acceptable).	Wear gown, gloves, N95, eye protection while collecting specimens	-Rub lesions vigorously -Place swabs of lesions from different body areas into separate, <u>dry sterile tubes (urine cups acceptable)</u> -Do not use viral transport media (VTM) or universal transport media (UTM)	-Label specimens with patient name, DOB, specimen site, date/time of collection -Refrigerate specimens within 1 hour of collection -Ship on ice packs

