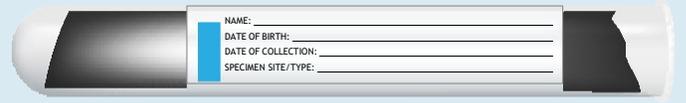


# Mpox Specimen Collection Instructions

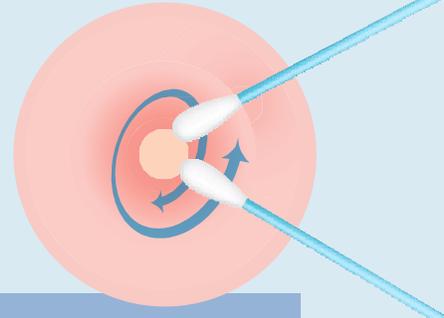
**STEP 1:** Label each collection tube with the following:

- Patient name
- Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy)
- Date of collection (mm/dd/yyyy)
- Specimen site/type



**STEP 2:** Simultaneously use **TWO** sterile synthetic swabs (i.e., polyester, rayon, or Dacron) to **vigorously swab** the base of the lesion. Unroofing the lesion is not recommended due to the risk of sharps injury.

**STEP 3\*:** Place swabs from each sampled lesion into their own screw-capped, plastic tube or container. Specimens may be collected in Remel MicroTest M4-RT Media; however, only dry swabs will be forwarded for clade specific testing. If clade specific testing is requested, submit dry swabs **WITHOUT** transport media. Please ensure all containers are properly labeled.



**SUSPECTED MPOX CLADE I?** Consultation with the NC Communicable Disease Branch (919-733-3419) is required prior to specimen submission and only dry swabs will be accepted\*.

## Mpox Storage and Shipping Instructions

**STEP 4:** Within one hour of collection, store all specimens at the appropriate temperature for transport.

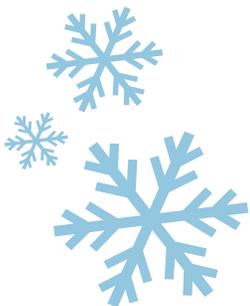
- If specimen will be received at North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) <5 days of collection: Specimen must be kept between 2-8°C during transport.
- If specimen will be received at NCSLPH >5 days after specimen collection: Specimen must be frozen at -20°C or lower during transport.

**STEP 5:** Complete the [Bioterrorism and Emerging Pathogens \(BTEP\) Specimen Submission Form](#) or log into the [State Laboratory of Public Health Lab Web Portal](#) to submit a test order\*.

**\*Note: For orders placed using Lab Web Portal, a separate order for each site or lesion to be tested will be required.**

**STEP 6:** Packaging and shipping instructions:

- **If Mpox Clade I (Central African, associated with DRC outbreak) is suspected:** Package the specimens using Category A guidelines and contact the BTEP Unit (919-807-8600) to expedite courier services.
- **If Mpox Clade II (West African) is suspected:**
  - **If currently utilizing NC Department of Administration (DOA) Medical courier** continue packaging according to current NCSLPH guidelines. This service ensures appropriate temperatures are maintained for Category B specimens.
  - **If shipping with UPS, FEDEX or other courier services,** package the specimens with cold packs using Category B guidelines referenced in the [APHL Packing and Shipping Guidance for Biological Substances, Category B](#). Ship the package by overnight delivery to:



**North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health  
ATTN: Bioterrorism and Emerging Pathogens Unit  
4312 District Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27607**

**Note: You must specify Saturday delivery if shipping on Friday.**

**STEP 7:** Contact the BTEP Unit (919-807-8600) if you have submission questions.

