



Monkeypox Guidelines for Emergency Departments

The following guidelines outline how emergency departments should triage suspect monkeypox cases for specimen collection, laboratory submission, and reporting to RIDOH.

1. Types of Patients

a. High Probability Patient

- i. An individual with a rash illness compatible with monkeypox, **AND** who
- ii. Had multiple sex partners or at least one anonymous sex partner during the past 30 days **AND** is:
 1. Any gay, bi, queer, or other man who has sex with men (MSM), **OR**
 2. Any transgender, non-binary, or gender diverse individual who has sex with any MSM**OR**
- iii. An individual with a rash illness compatible with monkeypox who reports close or intimate contact with a known case of monkeypox

b. Low Probability Patients

- i. An individual with a rash illness who does not meet criteria above

2. Reporting of Suspect Monkeypox Patients

Monkeypox is reportable to RIDOH within 24 hours of suspicion.

- a. High probability patients (see 1.a. above) should have specimens submitted to the Rhode Island State Health Laboratories. These patients should be reported to RIDOH.
 - i. High probability patients identified during business hours (Monday-Friday 8:30 AM-4:30 PM) can be reported to 401-222-2577
 - ii. High probability patients identified after business hours and on weekends/holidays can be reported to 401-276-8046
 - iii. After hours, the RIDOH physician on-call will return the phone call to collect information on the high probability patient and to obtain a call-back number to report out results.
- b. Low probability patients (see 1.b. above) should have specimens submitted to commercial laboratories. These suspected patients should not be reported to RIDOH.
 - i. Commercial laboratories will report results directly to RIDOH

3. Specimen Submission Guidelines

- a. Specimens from high probability patients (see 1.a. above) should be sent to the Rhode Island State Health Laboratory (401-222-5600) using the hospital courier or other delivery method established by the hospital.



- i. High probability specimens can be delivered to the Rhode Island State Health Lab during normal business hours: Monday -Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm (excluding holidays)
 - ii. High probability specimens that cannot be delivered by 4:30 pm Mon-Fri should be held by the provider in a refrigerator and delivered the next business day
 - iii. High probability specimens collected on weekends should be held by the provider in a refrigerator and delivered on Monday
 - iv. High probability specimens collected on holidays should be held by the provider in a refrigerator and delivered on following weekday.
 - v. Please carefully review [RIDOH's State Health Laboratories monkeypox specimen collection instructions](#), including the necessary specimen collection materials and personal protective equipment (PPE) required. Providers should take proactive steps to procure these specimen collection materials and PPE in the event a patient must be tested. Specimens may be rejected if they are improperly collected or transported.
- b. Specimens from low probability patients (see 1.b. above) should be sent to commercial labs. Providers should verify their commercial laboratory, the specimen handling instructions for that lab, as well as how to access the necessary specimen collection kit.
- i. Check with hospital send-out laboratory for most current guidance.
 - ii. Commercial labs conducting testing as of August 23, 2022 include:
 1. Aegis Sciences Corporation
 - a. Test code: 06575;
 - b. Will supply kits and all necessary instructions for proper transport of specimens.
 2. ARUP Laboratories
 - a. Specimen guidance: in viral transport medium
 3. ENZO Clinical Labs
 - a. Specimen guidance: in viral transport medium
 4. Labcorp:
 - a. Test code: 140230
 - b. Specimen guidance: in viral transport medium
 5. Mayo Clinic Laboratories
 - a. Requires prior approval 800-533-1710
 - b. Test code: MPXDX
 - c. Specimen guidance: 1 swab/lesion in VTM
 6. Quest Diagnostics
 - a. Specimen guidance: Viral Transport Medium or equivalent
 7. Sonic Healthcare (via East Side Clinical Laboratory)
 - a. Specimen guidance: dry swabs