DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DFS DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

Integrity | Accountability | Trust

Mpox Molecular Detection Testing Submission Guidelines

Specimen Collection and packaging for Suspected Mpox cases:

Collect two swabs from each lesion site: **one dry lesion swab placed into a sterile container and one swab immersed in viral or universal transport media** for preliminary and confirmatory testing, as outlined below:

1. Vigorously swab or brush each lesion using two separate sterile dry polyester or Dacron swabs.
2. Break off the swab tips into the respective containers
    a. One swab in 1.5-mL or 2-mL screw-capped tubes fitted with O-rings
    b. One swab in viral or universal transport media.
    c. Label each specimen container with the patient's name, date of birth, and collection site.
    d. Specimens must be maintained at a temperature of –20°C or lower within one hour of collection and subsequently stored accordingly.

Required Documentation

Complete **all** the following paperwork to accompany specimens from each patient. A separate DFS-PHL test requisition and **CDC50.34** Form must be filled out for each swab site (i.e., abdomen, hands, etc.). See below links to files. Place all paperwork in the outer pocket of the specimen bag.

1. **DC DFS-PHL Test Requisition Form**
2. External Chain of Custody (COC) Form
3. **CDC 50.34 Form** (this form is typically completed by the ordering provider)

Courier Requests

Once specimens are ready for pick up and the appropriate documentation is completed, please submit a courier request at the following link:

https://forms.office.com/g/YvxnK7LbkD

Courier request outside of the hours of 8:30am – 5:00pm will be responded to the following business day.

Turn-around time for DC PHL initial report

Anticipated to be 24 hours from receipt at DC PHL

Turn-around time for CDC reference testing (if indicated)

Anticipated to be 24 – 48 hours from receipt at CDC; up to 5 business days