



Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000

Governor Asa Hutchinson

Renee Mallory, RN, BSN, Interim Secretary of Health

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Guidance for Monkeypox Specimen Collection and Submission

Prior Authorization: Contact Outbreak Response (501-537-8969) as soon as Monkeypox is suspected and before submitting specimens to the State Public Health Laboratory. After hours, please call 1-800-554-5738. Once authorization has been obtained from Outbreak Response, the Miscellaneous Examination Form (HL-06) will be provided for specimen submission.

Test Request Forms: ALL samples must have a completed Miscellaneous Examination Form (HL-06)

- Complete all required fields
 - Must have the submitting facility's name and correct phone & fax number for results
 - Requestor must be a licensed medical practitioner (i.e. physician, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, etc.)
- Ensure the **Patient Name** and **Date of Birth** on form is correct and **matches** the specimen tubes.
 - Specimens will be rejected if information on form does not match specimen label.
- Place form in the outer pocket of the specimen bag.
 - **Do not** place the paperwork inside the bag with the specimen.

Specimen Collection: Collect 2 swabs by:

1. Vigorously swabbing or brushing the **same** lesion with **two separate** sterile dry swabs.
 - a. Swabs can be sterile nylon, polyester, or dacron swab with a plastic, wood, or thin aluminum shaft.
 - i. Do NOT use cotton swabs
2. Place each entire swab in separate sterile containers. **DO NOT** add or store in viral or universal transport media.
3. Label each specimen tube with ▲ **two unique identifiers** (i.e. **full name and date of birth**). ▲
 - a. Specimen will be rejected if identifiers don't match request form.
4. Refrigerate specimen (2-8°C)—or freeze specimen below -20°C—within an hour of collection.
 - a. Ship specimen as quickly as possible. **Same day or next day** of collection, if possible.

(* A dry scab can be collected, stored, and shipped/submitted for testing in a similar manner)

Specimen Shipping: Transport specimens at 2-8°C or packed with ice/ice blocks/cold packs. Specimens must be shipped as [Category B \(UN 3373\)](#) to the SPHL. (If specimen is frozen below -20°C, ship on **dry ice**.)

- Ship to: Arkansas Dept. of Health-Public Health Laboratory ATTN: Molecular, 201 South Monroe Street, Little Rock, AR 72205
- Package as a Category B specimen and bring to the nearest county Local Health Unit (LHU) for shipment on courier. 🚫 LHUs cannot accept unpackaged specimens. 🚫
- Specimens can be dropped off M-F 8am-730pm at the SPHL Specimen Receiving located at the back of the building (see State Public Health Lab Delivery Instructions for detailed directions).

Contacts:

- Outbreak Response: 501-537-8969 and/or ADH.ORSNurse@arkansas.gov
- HAI: ADH.HAI@arkansas.gov
- SPHL: ADH.Lab.QA@arkansas.gov

For information about current Monkeypox outbreak visit [CDC's website](#).

State Public Health Lab Delivery Instructions

The address is 201 S Monroe St, Little Rock, AR 72205. However, the receiving area is off Palm St.

On Palm St there is a sign that reads “Public Health Laboratory Receiving” – drive down the ramp.

Once parked, walk to the steel door, press the buzzer next to the steel door to be allowed into the building. At the drop off window inside, drop off samples and sign off what was delivered.

The star on the map below denotes the Specimen Receiving area at the back of the SPHL.

Specimen Receiving Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-730pm

