

Mpox: What Clinicians Need To Know About Testing



Signs and Symptoms

- Mpox is typically characterized by unexplained rash that develops into hard, round, fluid or pus-filled skin lesions. These lesions may umbilicate or become confluent and progress over time into scabs.
- Other symptoms include fever, chills, myalgia, headache, and lymphadenopathy. However, onset of perianal or genital lesions in the absence of subjective fever has been reported.
- While anyone can develop and spread this disease after being exposed to the virus, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that most cases of mpox in the U.S. have occurred among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM).
- **Mpox is a Category I reportable condition in Wisconsin. Clinicians must report suspected and confirmed mpox cases IMMEDIATELY by telephone to the patient's local health department.**



Testing and Specimen Collection

- Patients **must have lesions** and symptoms consistent with mpox to be eligible for testing at any laboratory.
- Providers should use commercial or clinical laboratories for routine mpox testing. **Testing in these labs does not require DHS pre-approval.**
- Free mpox testing will continue at the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene (WSLH) Monday through Friday for high priority patients with lesions consistent with mpox that meet one of the following public health testing criteria:
 - Patient is uninsured or underinsured (for whom cost would be a barrier).
 - The patient's provider is unable to send specimens to one of the commercial labs conducting mpox testing.
 - Patient is a known contact to a mpox case.
 - Patient reported skin-to-skin contact with someone in a social network experiencing mpox activity; this includes men who have sex with men.
 - Other priority testing (such as patients from areas with confirmed cases of mpox) as authorized by DHS.

As long as the patient meets one of these criteria, pre-approval from DHS is not needed to test at WSLH. Pre-approval from DHS is required for weekend testing at WSLH.

- Providers should review testing submission and acceptable specimen types for the laboratory conducting their test.
- **Providers should advise any patient being tested for mpox to isolate at home until results are returned.**

Mpox: Resources for Clinicians

From DHS

Visit the following webpages for updates on mpox in Wisconsin.

- **Mpox website:** www.dhs.wi.gov/disease/monkeypox.htm
- **Outbreaks website:** www.dhs.wi.gov/outbreaks/index/htm
- **Health Alert Messages:** www.dhs.wi.gov/disease/han.htm

From CDC

- **COCA Call: What Clinicians Need to Know about Mpox in the United States and Other Countries:** emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2022/callinfo_052422.asp
- **Mpox Case Definition:** www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/case-definition.html
- **Interim Guidance for the Treatment of Mpox:** www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/treatment.html
- **Clinician FAQs:** www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/faq.html

Testing Resources

- **CDC:** <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/prep-collection-specimens.html>
- **WSLH:** www.slh.wisc.edu/monkeypox-testing-information/
- **Labcorp:** <https://www.labcorp.com/infectious-disease/monkeypox>
- **Mayo Clinic:** news.mayocliniclabs.com/2022/07/11/mayo-clinic-laboratories-launches-monkeypox-test-to-increase-access-availability/
- **Quest:** www.questdiagnostics.com/healthcare-professionals/about-our-tests/infectious-diseases/monkeypox
- **Aegis:** www.aegislabs.com/our-services/monkeypox/
- **Sonic:** www.sonichealthcareusa.com/about-us/news/2022/07/sonic-healthcare-usa-announces-testing-availability-for-monkeypox/
- **ARUP Laboratories:** https://ltd.aruplab.com/Tests/Pub/3005716?_ga=2.102186881.1490213343.1659728705-1998504837.1659369330