

## THE VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LABORATORY

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### INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION OF SPECIMENS FOR NON-VARIOLA ORTHOPOX (NVO/Human Monkeypox VIRUS/hMPXV) TESTING

**Immediately report suspect cases of Non-Variola Orthopox (NVO/hMPXV)** to the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) by calling 802-863-7240, option 2 (24 hours, 7 days/week). Specimens will **NOT** be tested without prior approval.

#### KIT CONTENTS

Supplies in this box will allow for the collection of **TWO different lesions**

- Four sterile applicator swabs
- Four 15mL conical tubes
- Two biohazard bags
- One cold pack (**remove and place into a freezer**)
- Two [Micro 220 VDHL Clinical Test Request forms](#) (one per lesion set)
- One appropriately labeled styrofoam cooler shipping box

Personnel who collect specimens should use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Refer to <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/infection-control.html> for more information on collection, packaging, and transportation of suspected hMPXV specimens.

#### SPECIMEN COLLECTION

A total of **TWO** lesion sites (2 sites, 4 swabs) can be collected with this kit. Select lesions from different locations on the body and/or from lesions with differing appearances. Unroofing the lesion is not necessary.

- a. Rub a single lesion (Site 1) **VIGOROUSLY** with **TWO** sterile dry swabs. Rub as vigorously as the patient can withstand. Failure to rub vigorously can result in an inadequate specimen and yield no conclusive result.
- b. Insert each swab into one 15mL conical tube and break off the end. **Do NOT use transport medium- submit Dry Swabs only.**
- c. Screw cap on tube tightly.
- d. Label specimen container with the following:
  - Patient name
  - Date of birth
  - Lesion location (e.g. right foot, abdomen, left thigh)
  - Collection date/time
- e. Place both 15mL conical tubes into a biohazard bag.
- f. Complete one Micro 220 Clinical Test Request form. On page 1, include the lesion location in the **Specimen Site** section. On page 2, check "Other" in the **Molecular Virology** section and write "NVO". To ensure you receive your results, please write your fax # in the Clinical Lab/Practice section.
- g. Place the Micro 220 Clinical Test Request form into the outer biohazard bag pocket. **Do NOT** put the form inside with the specimens.
- h. Repeat step a.-g. for a **SECOND** lesion (Site 2).

**Information on the specimen container must match the information on the Micro 220 Clinical Test Request form. Improperly labeled specimens will be rejected.**

## **SPECIMEN STORAGE AND SHIPMENT**

- a. Refrigerate (2–8°C) specimens within an hour of collection.
- b. Ship at refrigerated temperature (2-8°C). Do NOT use wet ice.
- c. Specimen must arrive at the laboratory within 7 days of collection.
- d. The outer box should be sealed closed and labeled with “NVO”.
- e. Complete the “From, Person Responsible (Name and Phone number)” labels that are on the outside of the shipping box. The name of the person responsible would be the person who can answer questions about the shipment.
- f. **Do not send to VDHL without prior approval.** Please leave a name and contact number during your initial conversation with the Epi team so that lab staff can reach you to discuss best means of specimen transport.

### **Specimens May be Rejected for the Following Reasons:**

- No patient information or mismatched identifiers on the specimen and Micro 220 Clinical Test Request form
- Micro 220 VDHL Clinical Test Request form is placed inside the biohazard bag with the specimen
- Improper shipment temperature (not shipped with a frozen cold pack)
- Too old to test (>7 days from the date of collection)
- Inappropriate specimen type
- No swab received
- Submitted in transport medium
- Date/Time of collection missing

## **TEST SCHEDULE**

Monday through Friday- Results will be available the day of receipt if specimens are received at VDHL by 10am. Specimens received after 10am will be tested on the next workday. Saturday testing will be performed on a case-by-case basis. Results will be faxed during business hours.

## **IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A VDHL KIT**

The following is required if using your own supplies to ship a specimen to VDHL:

- Polyester, dacron, or nylon swabs are acceptable with a plastic, wood, or thin aluminum shaft
- Sterile 15mL conical tubes or urine cups – one swab per tube/cup
- A completed [Micro 220 VDHL Clinical Test Request form](#) for each sample set placed in the outer pocket of each biohazard bag
- Cold packs
- Outer shipping container labeled with a NVO label, UN3373 label, address label (To/From), and a person responsible (name/phone number) label
- The size of the outer shipping container must NOT exceed 14” X 14”

Follow shipping regulations for UN 3373 Biological Substance, Category B. All shipments must comply with current DOT/IATA shipping regulations.

If you are not shipping specimens to VDHL and using another laboratory, please note collection instructions may be different.