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Monkeypox Outbreak Update

There have been 1,391 Monkeypox cases in the US as of Aug 10th, 2022. This includes 104 cases in Michigan as of Aug 16th, 2022. The city of Detroit has seen the highest number of cases (29) along with Oakland County (18) and Wayne County (13) with the remainder spread across other counties.

Transmission

Monkeypox virus (MPV) is transmitted from one person to another by close contact with infectious rash lesions, scabs or body fluids. It can also be spread by respiratory secretions during prolonged, face-to-face contact, or during intimate physical contact, such as kissing, cuddling, or sex. Touching items (e.g., clothing, linen, or towels) that previously touched the infectious rash or body fluids is another way MPV spreads. MPV can spread from the time symptoms start until the rash has fully healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed. Recent findings suggest that patients without visible rash may also test positive for MPV using alternative specimen types. The implications of these findings for transmission are yet to be determined.

Diagnostic Testing

PCR testing on swabs from lesions are the recommended method of detection of MPV. Currently samples for MPV PCR testing are sent the state public health laboratory for testing. Effective Aug 24th, all samples submitted for MPV PCR testing will be sent to a national reference laboratory. As a result, there will be changes to the testing process and specimen collection requirements.

1. Public health (MDHHS) forms will no longer be required to be submitted with the sample
2. Test can be ordered in EPIC as "Monkeypox Virus DNA PCR, Qualitative (EPIC ID Lab 7111) Sunquest/Atlas ID: WMOPOX)
3. Specimen collection requirements have changed (see below)

Sample Collection and Transport

Sample Type: Collect **swab in Universal Transport Media (UTM)** for MPV testing. The recommended swab type is COPAN FLOQSwabs in 3ml UTM/UTM-RT transport tube (PS# 578746). Use of any other collection device may result in rejection or delay in testing. Contact Microbiology @313-916-1041 if collection devices are needed.

A single swab is usually adequate for MPV testing.

An additional swab may improve diagnostic yield but must be from a different lesion and be submitted in a separate tube/bag with a separate EPIC order.

Dry swabs will no longer be recommended or utilized for MPV testing after Aug 24th, 2022. Do not order any other laboratory testing on swabs collected for MPV PCR.

Specimen Rejection: Swabs sent in alternative transport media or multiple swabs in the same tube, dry swabs, samples that are leaking/compromised may also be rejected.

How to Collect Sample: It is not necessary to de-roof the lesion before swabbing. Vigorously swab or brush lesion with swab. Do not use the same swab for multiple lesions.

Specimen Transport: **Transport immediately to laboratory after collection. Refrigerate (2-8°C) specimens within an hour after collection.** Refrigerated specimens can be stored for up to 7 days and must be transported to Microbiology with cold packs.



COPAN FLOQSwabs in 3ml UTM/UTM-RT transport tube (PS# 578746).

For any questions regarding testing, please contact Dr. Samuel or Dr. Tibbetts in Microbiology @ 313-916-1041