

WV Office of Lab Services Bioterrorism Response Lab  
**MPOX COLLECTION & SHIPPING DIRECTIONS**

**(UPDATED 12-08-22)**

Once the patient has been determined to meet the CDC's case definition, through consultation with the WV State Epidemiologists and the CDC, then Mpox samples may be collected.

**Specimen Collection**

- If lesions are on different parts of the body or the lesions look different, then samples may be collected from 2-3 sample sites.
- **Two swabs** must be collected from each lesion site sampled.
- Laboratories may use sterile, synthetic swabs (including, but not limited to polyester, nylon, or Dacron) with a plastic, wood, or thin aluminum shaft, to swab the lesion vigorously to collect adequate DNA. Do NOT use cotton swabs as cotton can inhibit real-time PCR assays.
- Place swabs in individual sterile containers. DO NOT ADD ANY VIRAL OR UNIVERSAL TRANSPORT MEDIA.
- Freeze (-20°C or lower) specimens within an hour after collection. (If you do not have access to a -20°C or lower freezer, then refrigerate specimens within 1 hour.) Freezing provides the best sample integrity for a longer period.
- Maximum storage time at the following conditions: frozen specimens for up to 60 days, refrigerated specimens for up to 7 days from sample collection.
- Refrigerated specimens must be tested within 7 days of collection, ship immediately. Frozen specimens must be shipped within 60 days of collection. Shipping on dry ice is strongly recommended. Specimens received that are >8°C will be rejected.

**Specimen Shipment to WV OLS Bioterrorism Lab**

- Contact the WV Office of Lab Services Bioterrorism Response Lab at 304-205-8917 prior to shipping the sample.
- Ideally samples will be shipped immediately upon approval.
- Complete the WV OLS BT Lab Clinical Specimen Submission form. [https://dhhr.wv.gov/ols/labs/Documents/BT/Test%20Request%20Form\\_BT\\_Clinical\\_UPDATED-09-08-22%20testing.pdf](https://dhhr.wv.gov/ols/labs/Documents/BT/Test%20Request%20Form_BT_Clinical_UPDATED-09-08-22%20testing.pdf)
- Package the sample swabs in an insulated Category B box, with dry ice. (*The DOT has excluded the West African clade of mpox virus from the Category A indicative list.*). If you do not have access to dry ice, please notify the lab. Samples may be shipped with several frozen cold packs.
- Make sure you have enough dry ice to last for the whole transit time.
- Place the submission form in the box (protected from the ice).
- Ship the package as a Category B.
- Ship the sample(s) **FedEx Priority Overnight (delivery by 10:30 a.m.)** to the WV OLS BT Lab at the address below. Recipients contact number is 304-205-8917.

WV Office of Lab Services  
ATTN: BT Lab  
167 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
South Charleston, WV 25303

- As soon as you ship the package, email the completed OLS form, FedEx tracking number and the patient initials and birth date to [Lisa.M.Wallace@wv.gov](mailto:Lisa.M.Wallace@wv.gov), [Rosemarie.E.Karlen@wv.gov](mailto:Rosemarie.E.Karlen@wv.gov) and [Nellie.M.Cooper@wv.gov](mailto:Nellie.M.Cooper@wv.gov).