**To:** All Dartmouth Health Providers

**From:** Isabella W. Martin, MD, Joel A. Lefferts, Ph.D., Gregory J. Tsongalis, PhD

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

**Date:** 8/9/2022

**RE:** Monkeypox PCR diagnostic testing

Effective immediately, laboratories within the Dartmouth Health system will start sending specimens to Mayo Medical Laboratories for testing of patients with suspected monkeypox infection.

**eDH order:** Miscellaneous Lab Request [LAB3517]. Write “Monkeypox PCR” in the comments and the specimen site (hand, leg, chest, etc.) collected.

**Specimen collection instructions:**

1. Swab or brush skin lesion vigorously (insufficient DNA can result in inconclusive results) with **2 sterile swabs**.
2. Place both swabs in **a single** **Viral Transport Medium (VTM) container** (no gel, liquid, foam, or cotton). Be sure the container is capped adequately to prevent leakage.



**PeopleSoft numbers:**

VTM: 0133549

Swab: 0138403

1. Refrigerate or freeze (at -20C or lower) specimens within 1 hour after collection.

See additional specimen collection details at

[www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/considerations-for-monkeypox-vaccination.html](http://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/considerations-for-monkeypox-vaccination.html)

This testing will determine presence/absence of non-variola orthopoxviruses (ie, monkeypox, vaccinia virus, cowpox). Positive results can be presumed to represent monkeypox infection since the other orthopoxviruses are not currently circulating.

Positive results will automatically be reported to appropriate state public health officials.

**For questions or additional information, please contact:** Dr. Martin ([Isabella.W.Martin@hitchcock.org](mailto:Isabella.W.Martin@hitchcock.org)), Dr. Tsongalis ([Gregory.J.Tsongalis@hitchcock.org](mailto:Gregory.J.Tsongalis@hitchcock.org)) or Dr. Lefferts ([Joel.A.Lefferts@hitchcock.org](mailto:Joel.A.Lefferts@hitchcock.org)).

**Please check off the appropriate distribution lists by clicking the box:**

[StaffPhysicians-Lebanon@hitchcock.org](mailto:StaffPhysicians-Lebanon@hitchcock.org)

[StaffPhysicians-Concord@hitchcock.org](mailto:StaffPhysicians-Concord@hitchcock.org)

[StaffPhysicians-Manchester@hitchcock.org](mailto:StaffPhysicians-Manchester@hitchcock.org)

[StaffPhysicians-Nashua@hitchcock.org](mailto:StaffPhysicians-Nashua@hitchcock.org)

[APRN-Lebanon@hitchcock.org](mailto:APRN-Lebanon@hitchcock.org)

[APRN-Concord@hitchcock.org](mailto:APRN-Concord@hitchcock.org)

[APRN-Manchester@hitchcock.org](mailto:APRN-Manchester@hitchcock.org)

[APRN-Nashua@hitchcock.org](mailto:APRN-Nashua@hitchcock.org)

[PA-Lebanon@hitchcock.org](mailto:PA-Lebanon@hitchcock.org)

[PA-Concord@hitchcock.org](mailto:PA-Concord@hitchcock.org)

[PA-Manchester@hitchcock.org](mailto:PA-Manchester@hitchcock.org)

[PA-Nashua@hitchcock.org](mailto:PA-Nashua@hitchcock.org)

[GME-Residents-Fellows@hitchcock.org](mailto:GME-Residents-Fellows@hitchcock.org)

**APD:** Peter Glenshaw - [glenshawp@apdmh.org](mailto:glenshawp@apdmh.org); and Kelli Pippin- [pippink@apdmh.org](mailto:pippink@apdmh.org)

**Cheshire:** Matthew Barone - [mbarone@cheshire-med.com](mailto:mbarone@cheshire-med.com); and Heather Atwell - [hatwell@cheshire-med.com](mailto:hatwell@cheshire-med.com)

**New London:** [Timothy.Lund@newlondonhospital.org](mailto:Timothy.Lund@newlondonhospital.org); and [Kathleen.Kennedy@newlondonhospital.org](mailto:Kathleen.Kennedy@newlondonhospital.org)