



Peter C. Iwen, Ph.D., D (ABMM), Laboratory Director  
985900 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198  
Main: 402-559-9444  
24/7 Pager: 402-888-5588

---

# NPHL ALERT

---

July 23, 2024

To provide faster turnaround time, initial clade identification and to better support mpox testing in the State of Nebraska, the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) will begin use of an alternate mpox detection assay. This change will go into effect August 1, 2024 and will result in a change in acceptable sample submissions. The NPHL will no longer accept dry lesion swabs and updated swab collection and transportation guidance is below.

The new test is orderable via facility's NUIrt account under order code MPOX and results will be immediately viewable in NUIrt upon testing completion. If a NUIrt account is needed, please visit <https://nulirt.nebraskamed.com/login> and click the Register button.

## **Specimen source(s):**

Lesion swabs collected using a nylon flocked swab and stored in VTM/UTM by a health care provider from patients suspected of having mpox

## **Collection Procedure:**

1. Identify two suspected mpox lesions, preferably from two different locations on the body.
2. Label two tubes containing 3 mL of viral transport medium (VTM/UTM) with two patient identifiers, swabbing location, date and time of collection and collectors initials.
3. Using a sterile swab apply firm pressure to the lesion and swipe the swab back and forth at least 2-3 times before rotating the swab and repeating using the other side of the swab. If the lesion ruptures while swabbing, ensure to collect some of the lesion fluid on the swab as well
4. Remove and place each swab into a separate tube containing 3 mL of viral transport medium (VTM/UTM). Break swab at the indicated break line (if necessary) and cap the specimen collection tube tightly to ensure it does not leak in transport.
5. Mix by inverting rapidly 5 times.

## **Storage/Transport Temperature and Stability:**

Refrigerated (2-8 °C) for up to 7 days in transport medium

NOTE: Proper specimen collection, storage, and transport are critical to the performance of this test. Inadequate specimen collection, improper specimen handling and/or transport may yield a false result. Refer to the CDC Guidelines for Collecting and Handling Specimens for Mpox Testing (<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/prep-collection-specimens.html>)

**Effective Date:** August 1, 2024  
**Test Name:** Molecular Detection of Mpox  
**Test Code:** MPOX

If you have questions about testing, please contact **NPHL** at 402-559-9444.