



21 May 2022

GUIDANCE FOR THE LABORATORY INVESTIGATION OF SUSPECTED CASES OF MONKEYPOX IN SOUTH AFRICA

STEP 1: REPORT THE SUSPECTED CASE TO THE NICD TO ALLOW A RISK ASSESSMENT TO BE CARRIED OUT AND GUIDE LABORATORY TESTING

- Contact the NICD Hotline ☎ +27800 212 552

STEP 2: COMPLETE THE CASE INVESTIGATION FORM

- Fully complete the case investigation form

STEP 3: SUBMIT SPECIMENS FOR SPECIALIZED LABORATORY INVESTIGATION

- The following specimens are used for the investigation:

Specimen type	Collection materials	Comments
Lesion fluid and or material: -vesicle/pustule skin or fluid Scab, crust	Dacron or polyester flocked swabs with VTM or dry swab	Required for all investigations
Throat swab	Dacron or polyester flocked swabs with VTM or dry swab	Optional
Rectal and or genital swabs (if lesions present)	Dacron or polyester flocked swabs with VTM or dry swab	Optional, on case by case basis and in consultation with NICD
Semen	Urine specimen jar	Optional, on case by case basis and in consultation with NICD
Plasma	EDTA collection tube (purple top)	Optional, on case by case basis and in consultation with NICD
Serum	Serum separator tubes or clotted blood	Optional, on case by case basis and in consultation with NICD

- The specimens should be packaged in accordance with the guidelines for the transport of dangerous biological goods (i.e. Category A shipments with triple packaging using absorbent material) and transported directly and urgently to:

**Centre for Emerging Zoonotic and Parasitic Diseases
Special Viral Pathogens Laboratory
National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD)
National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS)
No. 1 Modderfontein Rd
Sandringham, 2131**

- Ensure that completed case investigation form accompanies the specimens
- Samples should be kept cold during transport (cold packs are sufficient).

Laboratory contact details:

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