

Monkeypox Clinician Quick Reference Tool



[KDPHMonkeypox.ky.gov](https://www.kdph.gov/monkeypox)



Kentucky Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Clinical Signs and Symptoms

Often starts with fever, swollen lymph nodes, malaise, headache, chills, and muscle aches. Symptoms start between 5-21 days after exposure (usually 7-14 days).

Characteristic rash lesions develop shortly after prodrome and are

- Firm or rubbery;
- Well-circumscribed;
- Deep-seated;
- Often develop umbilication; and
- Typically progress through four stages: macular, papular, vesicular, to pustular over a period of 2-3 weeks before scabbing over and falling off.

The illness typically lasts 2-4 weeks. Patients are considered infectious when symptoms are present and until lesions have scabbed with a layer of fresh skin visible after the scab has fallen off.

Other common infections should be considered if risk factors are not consistent with the outbreak.

Testing for Suspect Cases

Clinicians do not need to contact KDPH for approval to test a patient or obtain approval to use commercial labs for orthopox testing. Commercial labs should be considered the first choice for PCR orthopox testing.

If unsure whether the testing should be performed by a commercial lab or DLS, go ahead and obtain swabs and put in a sterile specimen container until the determination is made. This allows your patient flow to continue as normal.

Commercial labs:

- Several commercial labs ([Labcorp](#), [Quest](#), [ARUP](#), [Aegis](#), [Sonic](#), Mayo Clinic, and others) are able to process swabs for PCR testing for orthopox virus.
- There is variability among commercial labs about specimen collection, handling, transport media, submission, and CPT coding.
- It is very important to visit the website of the commercial lab before testing to get their most recent guidance.

Clinicians should only send specimens to the Kentucky Division of Laboratory Services (DLS) after prior KDPH Epidemiology approval by calling 888-9REPORT (888-973-7678).

State DLS:

- When a vulnerable population is involved;
- In cases of severe disease.

If approved for DLS testing:

- Digital photos of the lesions should be acquired, with patient consent, to aid in consultation.
- Obtain 2 swabs per lesion (maximum 3 lesions) by scrubbing the base of the lesion vigorously. Do not unroof the lesion. Skin cells are needed for testing, not fluid.
- Test requests should be ordered in the DLS Outreach system, with test code MVPCR. If Outreach access is unavailable, you may complete the Special Microbiology Requisition Form 219.
- Submit an [EPID 200 Form](#).

IF ORTHOPOX VIRUS IS DETECTED AT A COMMERCIAL LAB OR DLS, the second specimen from the corresponding site will be shipped to CDC on dry ice to ensure temperature requirements are met upon arrival at CDC.

ALL PATIENTS WHO ARE DETERMINED TO NEED TESTING BY A COMMERCIAL LAB OR STATE DLS SHOULD BE GIVEN:

[Isolation Guidelines](#) and advised to isolate until test results are available to prevent possible spread of disease.

VACCINE AVAILABILITY

If you think a patient is eligible to receive a monkeypox vaccine, contact your [local health department](#) for vaccination options. Monkeypox vaccines are regionally located across the state. The local health department will assist in coordinating vaccination efforts.



KDPH Reportable Disease: 888-9REPORT



General Public Monkeypox Hotline: (844)520-6670

CDC | Monkeypox information
for Healthcare Professionals

