



Public Health Division
Communicable Disease

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1060 EMELINE AVE., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061

TELEPHONE: (831) 454-4114 FAX: (831) 454-5049 TDD: Call 711

Monkeypox Public Health Lab Testing Guidance

Revised 8/8/22

TESTING:

Available Labs:

1. **Public Health Lab (PHL) Testing:** Lab testing through PHL requires that both epidemiological and clinical criteria be met AND requires submission of [PHL lab submittal form](#)

Currently County of Santa Cruz is set up to be sending specimens to Santa Clara Public Health Lab (SCPHL). Ordering providers can ship specimens directly to the lab (2220 Moorpark Avenue, 2nd Floor, San Jose, CA 95128) or specimens may be dropped off at the Watsonville Health Center Lab (1430 Freedom Blvd, Suite D) or Santa Cruz Health Center Lab (1080 Emeline Ave) for courier to SCPHL. **If specimens are to be dropped off to Watsonville or Santa Cruz Health Center Lab, the Communicable Disease Unit, and the lab must be notified before sending specimens.**

Specimen collection for PHL:

- Dry swabs of lesions, using sterile nylon, polyester, or Dacron swabs with plastic or aluminum shaft
- Follow PPE guidance when collecting specimens
- More than one lesion should be sampled (at minimum 2 separate lesions), preferably from different body sites for preliminary and confirmatory testing.
 - 1) If possible, unroof lesions with sterile needle;
 - 2) Vigorously swab each lesion with two separate sterile dry swabs;
 - 3) Break off swabs into separate 1.5- or 2-mL screw-capped tubes with O-ring, **OR** place each entire swab in a separate sterile **(dry)** container
 - a. If no other sterile dry containers are available, swabs can be placed in sterile urine specimen collection containers.
 - b. Do not use swabs from or place swabs into viral or universal transport media.
- Sample, label, and store each lesion separately

- Include a copy of the [PHL lab submittal form](#) for each specimen separately bagged

Specimen Storage for PHL

Refrigerate (2–8°C) or freeze (-20°C or lower) specimens within an hour after collection.

Store refrigerated specimens for up to 7 days and frozen specimens for up to 60 days.

Refrigerated specimens should be sent within 7 days of collection; frozen specimens should be shipped within 60 days of collection.