



August 30, 2022

Public Health Advisory
Testing for Monkeypox Virus

With continued spread of monkeypox internationally and nationally, Amarillo Public Health is asking area healthcare providers to be vigilant to the possibility of monkeypox in patients with characteristic symptoms and to be prepared to perform diagnostic testing when warranted.

CDC recommends testing individuals for monkeypox who meet at least suspect case criteria:

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/case-definition.html>

Monkeypox cases are immediately reportable upon suspicion. To report a suspected case of monkeypox, call (806)378-6321, (806)378-6353 or the off hours provider line at (806)680-8980.

Prior to sample collection, contact Amarillo Public Health to receive approval for testing and confirm the most updated testing requirements. Coordination will be made with the Laboratory Response Network (LRN) in Lubbock to facilitate receipt of the sample and ensure proper steps are taken during storage and shipping. Testing through the LRN is free of charge to the patient and the submitter. Test results are available within 24 hours of the sample arriving at the LRN.

Testing may also be conducted at select commercial laboratories. If a commercial laboratory will be used, confirm with that laboratory what types of specimens are currently accepted.

Personnel who collect specimens should use personal protective equipment (PPE) in accordance with recommendations for healthcare settings:

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/infection-control-healthcare.html>

For guidance on laboratory testing for monkeypox, visit the Texas Department of State Health Services website for providers: <https://dshs.texas.gov/IDCU/disease/monkeypox/Monkeypox-Information-For-Healthcare-Providers/>

Additional details on specimen collection are provided by the CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/prep-collection-specimens.html>

The National Emerging Special Pathogens Training & Education Center has a video demonstrating sample collection: <https://netec.org/2022/07/26/how-to-collect-a-monkeypox-specimen-for-diagnostic-testing/>.