

Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH)
Health Alert Network (HAN)
July 18th, 2022

Testing for Monkeypox (MPX) in Jefferson County

As cases of Monkeypox (MPX) continue to increase across the United States, the Jefferson County Department of Health expects an increase in the need for MPX testing in our area.

The JCDH currently requests that medical providers who have patients with signs and symptoms concerning for MPX perform testing in their offices/facilities. As the current outbreak of MPX continues, we expect the testing volume to grow, and **the JCDH will not be able to perform evaluations on every patient who may need testing. We request that the providers seeing the patients perform the testing.**

Sample collection only requires simple, sterile swabs (dry nylon, polyester, or Dacron) and sterile tubes that the swabs can be stored in and sealed. No viral media is required for transport. Specimen processing can only be performed at public health laboratories and some commercial laboratories and procedures for respective laboratories is as follows.

Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) Bureau of Clinical Laboratories (BCL):

Step 1: To have testing approved by the ADPH, the MPX Testing and Consultation Form for Healthcare Providers must be filled out, and this can be found here:

<https://redcap.link/monkeypoxconsultation>.

Step 2: Once approved, follow the detailed instructions on sample collection that can be found at: <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/monkeypox/assets/mpx-specimen-guidance.pdf>. Samples can be collected and stored while awaiting approval from ADPH

Note: If a medical provider does not have access to the necessary materials to perform sample collection, these can be requested by calling the JCDH at 205-930-1440, and a kit can be dispatched to your clinic. Additionally, if a sample is collected, the JCDH can assist with specimen transport to the BCL by calling the number above.

Commercial Laboratories:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has authorized some commercial laboratories to perform MPX testing.

Step 1: Check to see if your commercial laboratory provider is authorized to perform MPX testing.

Step 2: Contact the commercial laboratory to determine acceptable specimens and specimen collection procedures.