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Instructions for Collecting and Submitting Suspected Monkeypox Samples to HETL

1. Collect samples for HETL
 - HETL can accept the following specimen types for monkeypox testing:
 - Vesicle fluid, skin, crust, “roof”
 - Swab of lesion
 - Collect two (2) swabs from a maximum three (3) separate specimen sites for a total of six (6) swabs submitted to HETL
 - Specimen collection
 - Collect swabs of lesions, vesicles, or fluid only
 - Collect specimens from three (3) separate sites (lesions, vesicles, or fluid)
 - Collect two (2) swabs from each specimen site
 - Swabs used for SARS-CoV-2 PCR are acceptable
 - DO NOT use swabs with wooden shafts
 - DO NOT use swabs with calcium alginate or cotton tips
 - Specimen container
 - For each specimen site, place the two (2) swabs into a single sterile specimen container
 - Once you swab a specimen site, the two (2) swabs must be placed into a DRY specimen container that contains NO FLUID. After collecting the specimens, the swabs must stay dry. Do not use transport media.
 - Note: You will have three (3) specimen containers each containing two (2) swabs for a total of six (6) swabs
 - Each specimen container needs a unique requisition form (there will be a total of three (3) forms)
2. Label samples
 - Each sample tube/sample container must be labeled with:
 - Patient Name
 - Date of Birth
 - Sample Source (lesion, skin, crust, etc.)
 - Collection Location of Specimen (Body Site)
 - Date of Collection
 - Label Samples #1-3
3. Storage and Shipping Information
 - Refrigerate samples at 2-8°C within one (1) hour of collection
 - Ship samples at 2-8°C

4. Complete the HETL Orthopox Specimen Submission Form:
 - <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/health-and-environmental-testing/micro/documents/Orthopox%20Specimen%20Submission%20Form.pdf>
 - For questions about the Orthopox Specimen Submission Form, call 1-800-821-5821
 - A separate form must be filled out for **each specimen collection site.**
 - You will submit three (3) requisition forms; one for each specimen container
 - For more information: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/health-and-environmental-testing/micro/documents/Detection%20of%20Monkeypox%20via%20Real-Time%20PCR%20using%20LRN-B%20methodology%20LSIS.pdf?v2>