

# Notifying DSHS of Mpox-Positive Cases and Submitting Specimens to DSHS Laboratory for Sequencing

*Mpox is a Texas Notifiable Condition*

## Notify Health Dept. Contact in Patient's County of Residence

Positive Human Monkeypox virus (hMpoxV) results **MUST** be reported to the health department contact listed for the county of the patient's residence.

- Disease reporting contacts by county/public health region are available on the DSHS website [here](#).
- Before submitting specimens to the DSHS Lab, submitter must email details of each specimen to the Lab at [WGS.DSHS@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:WGS.DSHS@dshs.texas.gov) and to the HCID epidemiology team at [EAIDUMonitoring@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:EAIDUMonitoring@dshs.texas.gov).
- **Do not submit specimens without first discussing with the HCID epi and Lab teams.**

## Required Information for Mpox Specimen Submissions

- Patient name
- Patient date of birth
- Patient sex
- Date of collection
- Patient race and ethnicity
- Patient residential address (at least to the county level)



Scan QR code for 2024 Texas Notifiable Conditions List

## Preferred Information for Mpox Specimen Submissions

- Site of collection
- Date of symptom onset or date of rash onset
- Vaccine history (for possible vaccine break-through cases)
- Contact history (when investigating transmission chains)

## Additional Patient Information That Would Be Very Helpful

- Travel history (for travel-associated cases)
- Vaccine history (for possible vaccine break-through cases)
- Contact history (when investigating transmission chains)

## For Severe or Complicated Cases, or Suspected Antiviral Resistance

- Two separate specimens from two distinct sites of lesions are preferred.



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[dshs.texas.gov](https://dshs.texas.gov)

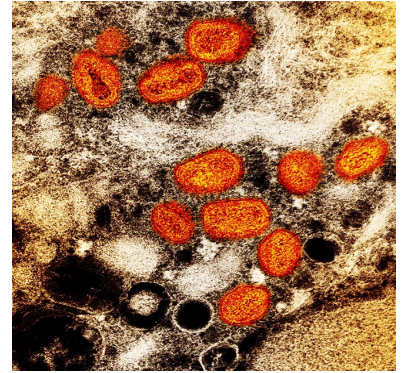
# Submitting Mpox-Positive Specimens to DSHS Laboratory for Disease Surveillance

*If sequencing is for severe or complicated cases, or suspected antiviral resistance, two separate specimens from two distinct lesion sites are preferred.*

## Preferred Specimens for Sequencing

### PCR Positive Human Monkeypox Virus (hMpoxV) extracts

- **Target gene Ct value:**  $\leq 29$  (higher values may be acceptable; please discuss with the DSHS HCID team and microbial genomics lab group before submission)
- **Minimum Required Volume:** 10  $\mu$ L DNA
- **Storage and Shipping:** Store and ship overnight at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- Extracts may be shipped as Category B Biological Substances.
- **Specimens that arrive at ambient temperatures cannot be tested.**



CDC

## Acceptable Specimens for Sequencing

### Only if hMpoxV extracts are unavailable

**Use:** Dry, sterile rayon, Dacron, nylon, or polyester swabs.  
Collect specimen per hMpoxV lesion sampling protocols.

- **Do not use cotton swabs as cotton interferes with sequencing.**
- **Do not ship swabs in transport media.**

### Storage and Shipping

- Store and ship swabs cold ( $2^{\circ}\text{C}$ – $8^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) if they will be received by the Laboratory within 24 hours of collection.
- Keep frozen ( $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) if specimen will be received by Lab more than 24 hours after collection.
- Ship swabs overnight to the DSHS Austin Laboratory.
- **Clade I swabs may be shipped as Category B Biological Substances.**
- **Specimens that arrive at ambient temperatures cannot be tested.**

## Mpox Specimen Submission Questions?

**Microbial Genomics Group:** (512) 776-6614 or (512) 776-2432; [WGS.DSHS@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:WGS.DSHS@dshs.texas.gov)  
**High Consequence Infectious Diseases (HCID) Team:** [EAIDUMonitoring@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:EAIDUMonitoring@dshs.texas.gov)

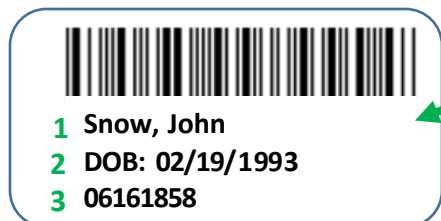
# Labeling Mpox Specimens & Completing Line List Correctly

***Mpox SPECIMENS MUST BE LABELED***

***MULTIPLE SPECIMENS MAY BE SUBMITTED WITH A COMPLETED LINE LIST***

## Label Specimens With Unique Patient Identifiers

Every specimen must have at least **two unique patient identifiers** on its label. Three identifiers are preferred.



Three patient identifiers provided here.

1. Name
2. Date of Birth
3. Medical Record Number

## Provide Patient Identifiers and Specimen Details in Line List

**Patient identifiers** on specimen label and line list **must match exactly**, otherwise specimen is not acceptable. Abbreviated names on labels are not acceptable.

### Patient Identifiers

- Name
- Date of birth
- Sex
- Residential address (City/County)
- Race and ethnicity
- Date of symptom onset or date of rash onset

### Specimen Details

- Site of specimen collection
- Date of specimen collection
- Ct Value
- Reason for sequencing

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# Packaging and Shipping Mpox-Positive Specimens to DSHS

**Submitting Testable Specimens is Every Submitter's Responsibility**

## Include Line List with Specimen(s) and Notify DSHS of Submission

Email DSHS Lab's Microbial Genomics Group and the HCID Team an electronic version of the line list to notify the Lab of the specimen submissions.

Place completed line list in a sealable waterproof bag to protect it from leaks and place on inside of outer mailer.

**Details of multiple specimens may be included in each line list.**

**NEVER affix line lists to the outer mailer as they contain Patient Health Information.**

## Ship Mpox Specimens as Hazardous Biological Substances

- Clade I and II extracts and swabs must be shipped to the Lab as Category B Infectious Substances.
- Clade I cultures must be shipped as Category A Infectious Substances.

Ensure outer mailer is properly labeled for the specimen type.

**NOTE:** It is the submitter's responsibility to ensure all personnel handling specimens are properly trained in handling and shipping hazardous materials.

Improperly shipping Mpox specimens may have legal consequences.



**BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCE  
CATEGORY B**

## Ship Mpox Specimens Overnight to Laboratory

Ship **OVERNIGHT** to guarantee timely delivery of specimens.

**Overnight Shipping Address** DSHS, Public Health Lab. Division,  
1100 W. 49th St. Austin, TX 78756-3199

**Specimens accepted Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. only.**

**Do NOT ship for weekend or holiday delivery.**

If specimen is collected on a Friday, weekend, or holiday, keep it frozen until the next available shipping date.



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**High Consequence Infectious Diseases (HCID) Team :**

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