

Date: June 3, 2022

To: Saskatchewan Practitioners, SHA Laboratories

From: Provincial Public Health Laboratory Network of Saskatchewan

Re: Monkeypox Testing – **UPDATED 2.0**

PLEASE POST AND DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Monkeypox is a zoonosis which can infect humans and usually occurs sporadically in forested parts of Central and West Africa. Community-acquired or suspected cases have now been recognized in multiple countries, including Canada.
- Additional information is available from the Government of Saskatchewan [here](#).
- Clinicians requesting testing for monkeypox, or other lab testing on monkeypox suspects, should contact the Microbiologist on-call (Regina 306-766-4444; Saskatoon 306-655-1000).

Testing:

- Samples will be **tested at the Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory (RRPL) and forwarded to the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) in Winnipeg for confirmation.**
- A completed [NML Special Pathogens requisition](#) that includes exposure risk needs to accompany the specimen.
- Monkeypox diagnosis is confirmed by PCR. The turnaround time for testing is approximately 2 days once the sample is received at the testing laboratory.

Sample Collection, Storage, and Transportation:

- The recommended specimen for monkeypox testing at RRPL is a **routine viral swab of a lesion submitted in UTM.**
- Other acceptable specimen types will be forwarded directly to NML for testing, including dry lesion swabs, vesicle fluid aspirates, skin/lesion scrapings or tissue biopsies from lesions placed into a sterile tube.
- Samples should be refrigerated and transported at 4°C. Do not freeze.
- Patient specimens submitted for Monkeypox diagnostic testing can now be shipped under a Temporary Certificate as [TDG category B](#). Personnel packaging and shipping specimens must refer to [TU 0886](#).

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Microbiologist on-call

- Regina/South 306-766-4444
- Saskatoon/North 306-655-1000