

# Monkeypox Specimen Collection

Specimens for Monkeypox can be collected by referring doctors as either a:

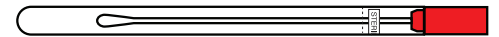
- skin lesion swab
- throat swab, or
- nasopharyngeal swab

PPE recommendations for patient contact, including sample collection, are eye-protection, gown, gloves, and as a minimum a surgical mask. Consider the use of an N95 mask if the patient has respiratory symptoms, if varicella is a differential diagnosis, or when collecting respiratory swabs.

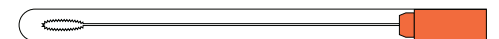
## MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Red Top (Dry Flocked) swab can be used for skin lesion or throat specimens.
- Orange Top (Mini Tip Flexible Dry Flocked) swab for nasopharyngeal.

Flocked swab (Red Top)



Flocked swab (Orange Top)



## SAMPLE COLLECTION

- Don appropriate PPE and collect as much material as possible
- For vesicular lesions: break vesicle with swab and swab base of lesion  
If dry lesion, wet swab with sterile water or saline
- Respiratory swabs: either throat or nasopharyngeal are acceptable sample types

## SAMPLE TRANSPORT

Samples should be triple bagged prior to transport. Swabs for routine microscopy and culture should be placed in a separate bag with its own request form.

For patients with a very high pre-test probability (e.g. symptomatic close contact of a known case) additional packaging may be required prior to transport. Please discuss with the Public Health Officer at the time of notification to the Department of Health.

## HOW TO ORDER

Request 'Monkeypox PCR at VIDRL' on a Dorevitch Pathology request form, make a clinical note to indicate you have notified the Victorian Department of Health of the suspected case, e.g. 'notified to Health Dept'.