

Poxvirus Diagnostics Specimen Collection Guide



1 Gather the materials needed for specimen collection. You can collect samples from pustules, vesicles, and/or crusts:

1. Sterile polyester swabs for lesion fluid samples
2. Disposable scalpel, lancet or plastic scraper
3. Dry, sterile screw-capped containers
4. Alcohol wipes
5. Pen for labeling specimen containers
6. Bandage
7. Biohazard bag and sharps container for disposable supplies
8. Personal protective equipment (gloves, goggles or face shield, gown, and face mask)

2



Collect at least two specimens, from separate lesions, per patient.

Use a new collection tool (swab or scalpel) for each lesion. Each specimen should be stored in its own container. Viral transport media is not needed for specimen preservation.

3



Information on the specimens must match the information on the case investigation form. Label each specimen container with the following:

1. Patient name
2. Case number
3. Lesion location
(e.g., right foot, abdomen, left thigh)
4. Collection date



- 4** Put on personal protective equipment prior to collecting specimens including gloves, gown, goggles or face shield, and face mask.



Sanitize lesions with an alcohol wipe.

Wait 30 seconds to allow the area to dry.

6a Lesion/fluid sample:

If skin atop the vesicle or pustule is intact, it may be necessary to gently lance and lift the lesion roof using a clean disposable scalpel, lancet, or plastic scraper. Use the swab to collect fluid/pus from the lanced lesion. Visually confirm lesion material or fluid is on the swab. Break off the end of the swab into a sterile screw-capped container or return the swab to its original holder. Cover lesion with a bandage.

Step 1:



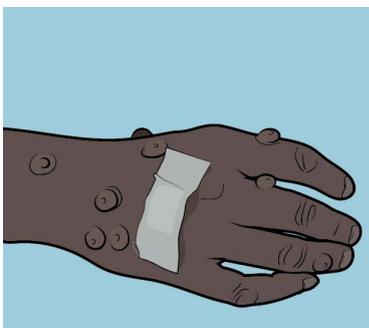
Step 2:



Step 3:



Step 4:

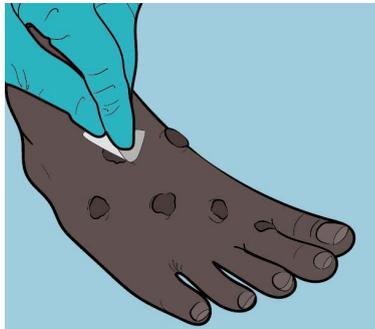


6b Crust sample:

Use a clean disposable scalpel, lancet, or plastic scraper to remove all or a piece of the crust at least 4mm x 4mm – about the size of this dot: ●

Separate each crust into a dry, sterile screw-capped container. Cover the lesion with a bandage.

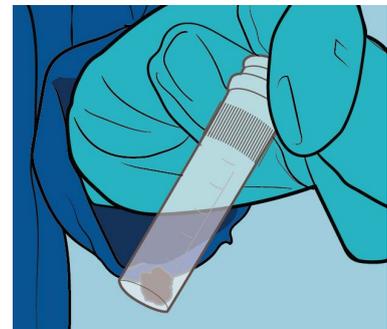
Step 1:



Step 2:



Step 3:



7 Package all specimens in a plastic bag and label the plastic bag with the patient's name and case number. Dispose of all waste into a biohazard bag or sharps container including personal protective equipment.

8



Keep specimens cold by placing them in a reliable refrigerator (4°C) or freezer ($\leq -20^{\circ}\text{C}$). The refrigerator or freezer should be one that does not contain food, vaccines, or medications.

9 Refer to your organization's policies for specific instructions on transporting specimens that require cold chain to a laboratory for testing.



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