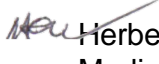




Memorandum Micro #208

To: UNCHCS Attending Physicians, Faculty Practice Physicians, Housestaff,
Clinical Nursing Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

From:  Melissa B. Miller, PhD, Director, Clinical Microbiology Laboratory

 Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD
Medical Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

Date: July 29, 2022

Subject: Monkeypox Testing UPDATE

Beginning August 2, 2022, the Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at UNC Medical Center (UNCMC) will offer Monkeypox PCR performed in-house instead of referring specimens to Mayo Clinical Laboratories. The EPIC order code (LAB192403) and specimen collection is unchanged. Samples will be tested daily Monday-Friday and once on the weekend resulting in a 1-3 day turnaround time. On campus locations should hand deliver to the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory specimen window. Do not use the tube station at the medical center. Affiliate hospitals and offsite locations that routinely use McLendon Laboratories should use their regular workflow for routing specimens to UNCMC. Outpatient locations using a different reference laboratory (i.e., LabCorp) should continue using that reference laboratory.

Providers do NOT need to get pre-approval from the on-call NC DHHS epidemiologist prior to testing at UNCMC. However, suspected cases must still be reported to your local public health department or NCDPH (919-733-3419) within 24 hours per the NC State Administrative Code.

Detailed specimen collection instructions can be found at these websites:

<https://unchcs.intranet.unchealthcare.org/Pages/Monkeypox.aspx>

<https://www.uncmedicalcenter.org/mclendon-clinical-laboratories/available-tests/monkeypox-orthopoxvirus-pcr/>

In brief, the red capped double swab transport device (Lawson # 050439) should be used. Vigorously swab or brush the base of the lesion with each of the two swabs and return the swabs to the transport tube. Two swabs should be submitted to ensure adequate material is sampled. If multiple lesions with differing appearances are present, consider submitting additional swabs, as described above, for each lesion.

The same swab(s) can be used for HSV and/or VZV PCR testing at UNCMC. Additional swabs are no longer needed for these tests.

Contact Dr. Melissa Miller at Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu with any questions.