Patient referral and testing guidance

Mpox (monkeypox)

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the [Public Health Laboratory Network](https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-phlncd-monkeypox.htm)  (PHLN) Laboratory Case Definition (LCD) for mpox and the [PHLN Guidance on Mpox Patient Referral, Specimen Collection and Test Requesting](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/phln-guidance-on-monkeypox-patient-referral-specimen-collection-and-test-requesting-for-general-practitioners-and-sexual-health-physicians?language=en).

# SPECIMEN TRANSPORT

Use appropriate specimen packaging and submit to the laboratory as soon as possible.

# SPECIMEN COLLECTION

Collect lesion tissue by vigorously rubbing a sterile swab at the base of the lesion. Raise any questions with the specialist microbiologist, if required.

# PPE

Wear appropriate PPE while collecting specimens and wipe down specimen containers using disinfectant.


# TESTING

Testing for mpox is done in a laboratory. This test is available throughout Australian laboratories

# REFERRAL

Refer patients for testing if they have symptoms and may have been exposed. Advice from public health units may determine how each patient will be prioritised for testing.