Announcement
The State Hygienic Laboratory is pleased to announce the release of the Orthopoxvirus, Conclusion, Qualitative Real-Time PCR test (LRN Code: LRNT123). This is a PCR test intended for the qualitative detection of non-variola Orthopoxviruses (VAC1 assay).

Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. Monkeypox virus belongs to the Orthopoxvirus genus in the family Poxviridae. The Orthopoxvirus genus also includes variola virus (which causes smallpox), vaccinia virus (used in the smallpox vaccine), and cowpox virus. Monkeypox is unrelated to the chickenpox virus of the Herpesviridae family. Scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are tracking multiple cases of monkeypox that have been reported in several countries that have not reported monkeypox in the past, including the United States.

Reporting Requirements
Clinicians must report suspected monkeypox cases to the IDPH Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) as soon as monkeypox is suspected and PRIOR TO COLLECTING SPECIMENS.

Specimens approved by IDPH for testing at SHL should be submitted using a current IDPH Epidemiological Investigation Test Request Form (TRF) obtained by contacting IDPH CADE.

IDPH will consult with CDC and SHL to determine the need and plan for laboratory testing.

Please see the following pages for additional test details.
Orthopoxvirus, Conclusion, Qualitative Real-Time PCR  
LRN Code: LRNT123  
Effective August 1, 2022

| Clinical Significance | The Orthopoxvirus, Conclusion, Qualitative Real-Time PCR test is intended for the qualitative detection of non-variola Orthopoxviruses and Monkeypox virus DNA using swabs from human pustular or vesicular rash specimens. |
| Specimen Collection | Collect swab specimens from two lesions. Collect two swab specimens per lesion. Each swab should be in a separate collection tube. |
| Specimen Requirements | Monkeypox Dry Swab Kit or Monkeypox VTM Kit  
Order kits at: [www.shl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms/clinicalkit.xml](http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms/clinicalkit.xml) |
| Reject Criteria | Cotton or rayon swabs; wooden swabs; M4 media, UTM; FlexTrans are unacceptable. |
| Instructions | Swab the lesion vigorously and place the swab into viral transport media (VTM) or dry swab tube. Each swab should be placed in a separate collection tube. The two collection tubes from the same lesion can then be placed in biohazard bag that is sealed with a Test Request Form specific to that lesion. Ship refrigerated via CDS courier to SHL. |
| Transport Temperature | Frozen specimen: Ship on dry ice  
Refrigerated specimen: Ship on ice packs |
| Specimen Stability | Room temperature: Unacceptable  
Refrigerated: 7 days  
Frozen: 30 days |
| Set-up/Analytic Time | Set-up: Monday – Friday, next day testing  
Report available: 2 – 3 days |
| Reference Range | Result Name: Orthopoxvirus  
Reference Range: Negative |
| Methodology | Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction |
| Performing Site | State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa |
| Sample Pick-up | Contact CDS courier to schedule pick-up of specimens  
[http://cdsofiowa.com](http://cdsofiowa.com) | (515) 289-9990 |
## Order a Clinical Test Kit

Specimen collection kits are available for order on the SHL website
- [http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms/clinicalkit.xml](http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms/clinicalkit.xml)
- Type of kit, select either
  - Monkeypox VTM Kit (2 swabs/kit)
  - Monkeypox Dry Swab Kit (2 swabs/kit)

## Kit Contents

*contents subject to change

### Monkeypox VTM Kit
- Puritan sterile polyester swab x2
- Viral transport media (VTM) x2
- Specimen biohazard bag
- Absorbent material
- White mailing tube w/ return label

### Dry Swab Kit
- Puritan sterile polyester swab x2 (in Dry Transport System tube)
- Specimen biohazard bag
- Absorbent material

## Contact Information

### IDPH CADE
(515) 242-5935 (business hours)
(515) 323-4360 (non-business hours)

### SHL
(319) 335-4500 or (800) 421-4692
[www.shl.uiowa.edu](http://www.shl.uiowa.edu)
2490 Crosspark Road
Coralville, IA 52240