



**UPDATED: 1 JULY 2022**

# **GUIDANCE FOR THE LABORATORY INVESTIGATION OF SUSPECTED CASES OF MONKEYPOX IN SOUTH AFRICA**

## **STEP 1: REPORT THE SUSPECTED CASE TO THE NICD TO ALLOW A RISK ASSESSMENT TO BE CARRIED OUT AND GUIDE LABORATORY TESTING**

- Contact the NICD Hotline ☎ **+27800 212 552**

## **STEP 2: COMPLETE THE CASE INVESTIGATION FORM**

- Fully complete the case investigation form (available from [www.nicd.ac.za/monkeypox](http://www.nicd.ac.za/monkeypox))

## **STEP 3: SUBMIT SPECIMENS FOR SPECIALIZED LABORATORY INVESTIGATION**

- The following specimens are used for the investigation:

<b>Sample type</b>	<b>Collection materials</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<u>Skin lesion material:</u> Swabs of lesion exudate / Aspirate of lesion fluid Lesion roof/s Lesion crust/s	Dacron or polyester flocked swabs with VTM or dry swab	<b>Preferred sample Required for all investigations</b>

- The specimens should be packaged in accordance with the guidelines for the transport of dangerous biological goods (i.e. Category A shipments with triple packaging using absorbent material) and transported directly and urgently to:

**Centre for Emerging Zoonotic and Parasitic Diseases  
Special Viral Pathogens Laboratory  
National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD)  
National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS)  
No. 1 Modderfontein Rd  
Sandringham, 2131**

- Ensure that completed case investigation form accompanies the specimens
- Samples should be kept cold during transport (cold packs are sufficient).

### **Laboratory contact details:**

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## **Annex A: World Health Organization case definitions**

(as on 6 June 2022, <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2022-DON385>)

### **Suspected case:**

A person of any age presenting in a monkeypox non-endemic country<sup>[2]</sup> with an unexplained acute rash

#### **AND**

One or more of the following signs or symptoms, since 15 March 2022:

- Headache
- Acute onset of fever (>38.5°C),
- Lymphadenopathy (swollen lymph nodes)
- Myalgia (muscle and body aches)
- Back pain
- Asthenia (profound weakness)

#### **AND**

for which the following common causes of acute rash do not explain the clinical picture: varicella zoster, herpes zoster, measles, Zika, dengue, chikungunya, herpes simplex, bacterial skin infections, disseminated *gonococcus* infection, primary or secondary syphilis, chancroid, lymphogranuloma venereum, granuloma inguinale, molluscum contagiosum, allergic reaction (e.g., to plants); and any other locally relevant common causes of papular or vesicular rash.

*N.B. It is not necessary to obtain negative laboratory results for listed common causes of rash illness in order to classify a case as suspected.*

<sup>[2]</sup>Monkeypox endemic countries are: Benin, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ghana (identified in animals only), Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo, and Sierra Leone. Benin and South Sudan have documented importations in the past. Countries currently reporting cases of the West African clade are Cameroon and Nigeria. With this case definition, all countries except these four should report new cases of monkeypox as part of the current multi-country outbreak.

### **Probable case:**

A person meeting the case definition for a suspected case

#### **AND**

One or more of the following:

- has an epidemiological link (face-to-face exposure, including health workers without eye and respiratory protection); direct physical contact with skin or skin lesions, including sexual contact; or contact with contaminated materials such as clothing, bedding or utensils to a probable or confirmed case of monkeypox in the 21 days before symptom onset
- reported travel history to a monkeypox endemic country<sup>1</sup> in the 21 days before symptom onset
- has had multiple or anonymous sexual partners in the 21 days before symptom onset
- has a positive result of an *orthopoxvirus* serological assay, in the absence of smallpox vaccination or other known exposure to orthopoxviruses
- is hospitalized due to the illness

### **Confirmed case:**

A case meeting the definition of either a suspected or probable case and is laboratory confirmed for monkeypox virus by detection of unique sequences of viral DNA either by real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and/or sequencing.

