



UPDATED: 23 OCTOBER 2024

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

**STEP 1: NOTIFY THE SUSPECTED CASE OF MPOX USING THE [NOTIFIABLE MEDICAL CONDITIONS \(NMC\) PLATFORM](#). MPOX IS A [CATEGORY I NMC](#) IN SOUTH AFRICA. CONSULT THE NICD CLINICAL ADVICE HOTLINE IF YOU NEED CLINICAL GUIDANCE OR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SUBMISSION OF SPECIMENS FOR MPOX TESTING (Contact the NICD Clinical Advice Hotline ☎ +27800 212 552, FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS ONLY)**

### STEP 2: COMPLETE THE CASE INVESTIGATION FORM

- Fully complete the [case investigation form](#)

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

- The following specimens are used for the investigation:

Specimen type	Collection materials	Comments
<u>Skin lesion material:</u> <b>Swabs of lesion/s*</b> Lesion roof/s, and/or lesion crust/s Aspirates of lesion fluid (not recommended, but may be submitted)  <i>*collect specimen by vigorously rubbing the swab over the lesion surface (without causing injury)</i>	Swabs (for example dacron or polyester flocked swabs) can be submitted dry (in capped tube) or in viral transport media.  <i>Preferably, avoid "culture swabs" which is transported in Amies transport media.</i>	Swabs from can be collected from different lesions. Swabs collected from different lesions, may be stored in a single tube if so required.

**Any other specimen type to be discussed with the laboratory before submission** (see contact details below), and may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- The specimens for diagnostic investigation should be packaged in accordance with the guidelines for the transport of dangerous biological goods in accordance with [UN3373 Biological substances/Category B shipping instructions](#) (IATA packaging instruction 650) 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, no dry ice required).

#### Laboratory contact details:

FOR RESULTS QUERIES PLEASE EMAIL REQUEST TO [CEZD@NICD.AC.ZA](mailto:CEZD@NICD.AC.ZA)

or

Dr Jacqueline Weyer [jacquelinew@nicd.ac.za](mailto:jacquelinew@nicd.ac.za) / 011 386 6376 / 082 903 9131  
Dr Naazneen Moolla [naazneenm@nicd.ac.za](mailto:naazneenm@nicd.ac.za)

Visit the [NICD website](#) for more information on mpox