## Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions

### Non-v variola Orthopox (Version 1)

#### Specimen Type

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| Vesicle/ pustule skin or crust | At illness. | NA | • Sanitize skin with alcohol wipe and allow to dry completely.  
• Open and remove the top of the lesion using a sterile scalpel or 26-gauge needle.  
• Place the vesicle or pustule skin “roof” in a dry, sterile 1.5-2 mL screw-capped plastic vial with O-ring. | NA |   |
| Swab of vesicular or pustular fluid* | For optimal isolation, collect within 72 hours of symptom onset. | NA | • Collect only using synthetic tip swabs (ex. Dacron, Nylon, Polyester) with non-wooden shaft.  
• Swab the base of an un-roofed lesion, and place in a sterile screw-capped plastic vial with O-ring.  
• Break off swab handle and screw on cap.  
• DO NOT add transport medium to the vial. | NA |   |
| Punch Biopsy | | NA | • Use a 3.5- or 4-mm punch biopsy device to sample an entire lesion.  
• Bisect the biopsied material, using sterile scissors or scalpel.  
• Place half of the biopsied material in formalin for histopathologic and immunohistochemical evaluation.  
• Place the other half of the biopsied material DRY in a sterile (1.5 - 2 mL) screw-capped plastic vial with O-ring (DO NOT add transport medium). | Formalin or No Transport Medium (see Collection Method) |   |
| Serum | | | • Draw blood specimens using 10 cc red or red/gray marble topped serum separator tubes with clot activator.  
• If possible, centrifuge specimen to separate serum from blood clot, and send only serum (significant hemolysis typically occurs if serum is not separated from red blood cells on-site, prior to shipment).  
• Minimum volume: at least 1 mL of serum.  
• Serum may be frozen (-70°C to -20°C) if aliquoted; otherwise store at 2°C to 8°C. | NA |   |

*Preferred specimen type, if applicable  **All specimens must be shipped meeting IATA, OSHA, and USPS requirements.  NA: Not Applicable  

Last Revised: March 2015
General Rejection Criteria (for additional details, see S&H)

• Unaccepted specimen type.
• Not refrigerated or frozen properly.
• Insufficient specimen volume.
• Leaky specimen.
• Swab on wooden shaft.
• Did not obtain LHJ or DOH CDE approval.
• Failure to follow specific S&H requirements.

NOTE:
Specimens will not be processed until ALL of the following information are provided on requisition form:

• Patient name, patient's county of residence, and second identifier.
• Two matching identifiers on both the tube and the laboratory requisition form.
• Specimen type, date of collection, and test requested.
• Submitter name, address, and telephone/FAX numbers.

Collection kit availability

Not available.

Comments