

Monkeypox Frequently Asked Questions

Who should get tested for monkeypox?

Individuals looking to get tested for monkeypox should seek guidance from a health care provider who can assess and determine whether they should be tested based on current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [guidelines](#).

How are monkeypox tests performed?

Presently, diagnostic testing for monkeypox is conducted by a clinician who will [collect swab samples](#) taken directly from a lesion rash or growth from a patient. The sample will then be packaged and labeled according to clinical guidance and sent to a laboratory, including commercial, public health, academic, or hospital laboratory, for analysis.

The orthopoxvirus test provided by the CDC and in use by some commercial laboratories is a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. It can detect most non-smallpox related orthopoxviruses, including monkeypox. To support additional testing needs, individual commercial laboratories have also developed and validated other PCR tests that have the capability to detect the monkeypox virus.

Where is diagnostic testing for monkeypox available?

Specimen collection for monkeypox is currently available at doctor's offices, urgent care centers, health clinics, and hospitals across the country. At these locations, providers will evaluate patients exhibiting monkeypox symptoms and collect samples to conduct diagnostic testing if deemed necessary. Patient samples are then sent to laboratories for testing and analysis.

How is ACLA supporting the federal response to monkeypox?

ACLA and member laboratories have worked in collaboration with the CDC since the outbreak of the orthopoxvirus to support expansion of testing capacity across the country. Five leading clinical laboratory members of ACLA – [Aegis Sciences Corporation](#), [Labcorp](#), [Mayo Clinic Laboratories](#), [Quest Diagnostics](#), and [Sonic Healthcare](#) – have [partnered](#) with the CDC to dramatically scale up monkeypox testing capacity. Additional ACLA members have also brought monkeypox testing online in recent weeks through laboratory-developed tests (LDTs).

With the help of ACLA member companies, monkeypox testing capacity has increased from 6,000 samples per week to 80,000 samples per week, resulting in ample capacity to meet current demand.

How are monkeypox testing results reported?

CDC [guidance](#) states that all monkeypox test results (positive, negative, equivocal) should be reported unless otherwise specified. Laboratories performing monkeypox testing report results to state, local, territorial, or tribal (STLT) health departments as well as to patients and clinicians. This includes real-time PCR testing for orthopoxvirus, non-variola orthopoxvirus, or monkeypox virus.

Information about the number of monkeypox cases in the U.S. can be found on CDC's [website](#), along with information about laboratory testing [data](#).