



## Memorandum Micro #207

To: UNCMC and Hillsborough Attending Physicians, Faculty Practice Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads, and Supervisors

From: *MBM* Melissa B. Miller, PhD, Director, Clinical Microbiology Laboratory

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Medical Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

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Date: July 21, 2022

**Subject: Monkeypox Testing**

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Beginning July 21, 2022, the UNC Medical Center (UNCMC) McLendon Clinical Laboratories will offer Monkeypox (Orthopox) PCR as a sendout test to Mayo Clinic Laboratories. The EPIC order code is LAB192403. Samples will be sent out Monday-Friday. Mayo's turnaround time is 1-4 days. On campus locations should hand deliver to the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory specimen window. Do not use the tube station at the medical center. Offsite locations that routinely use McLendon Laboratories should use their regular workflow for routing specimens to UNCMC. Locations using a different reference laboratory (i.e., LabCorp) should use their usual reference laboratory.

Providers do NOT need to get pre-approval from the on-call NC DHHS epidemiologist prior to testing at laboratories other than the NC State Laboratory of Public Health. However, suspected cases must still be reported to your local public health department or NCDPH (919-733-3419) within 24 hours per the NC State Administrative Code.

Detailed specimen collection instructions can be found at this website:

<https://unchcs.intranet.unchealthcare.org/Pages/Monkeypox.aspx>

In brief, the red capped double swab transport device (Lawson # 050439) should be used. Vigorously swab or brush the base of the lesion with each of the two swabs and return the swabs to the transport tube. Two swabs should be submitted to ensure adequate material is sampled. If multiple lesions with differing appearances are present, consider submitting additional swabs, as described above, for each lesion.

Call Referral Testing at 984-974-1414 or contact Dr. Melissa Miller at [Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu) with any questions.