




## Memorandum Micro #210

To: UNC Health System Attending Physicians, Faculty Practice Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nursing Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

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**Subject: Monkeypox Testing UPDATE #2**

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Beginning September 12, 2022, the Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at UNC Medical Center will replace the current Monkeypox PCR test with a non-variola Orthopoxvirus (NVO) test. The EPIC order code (LAB192403), specimen collection and turnaround time is unchanged. The NVO test detects the DNA of non-variola Orthopoxviruses (i.e., monkeypox, vaccinia, cowpox viruses). It does not detect variola virus, which causes smallpox. Due to the current outbreak of Monkeypox virus, a “Detected” result by the NVO test can be interpreted as positive for Monkeypox virus DNA.

This change is in response to the CDC alert issued on September 2, 2022 reporting rare false negative results when using the Monkeypox specific PCR test. More details can be found in the alert here: [CDC MPXV TNF Deletion Alert](#)

We re-tested the last two weeks of negative and indeterminate specimens using the NVO test. No positives were identified indicating we likely have not seen the gene deletion described in the CDC alert at UNC Health.

Contact Dr. Melissa Miller at [Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu) with any questions.