



**Memorandum - Micro #220**

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

From: *MBM* Melissa B. Miller, PhD; Director, Clinical Microbiology Laboratory  
*HCU* Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD  
Medical Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

Date: March 1, 2023

**Subject: Monkeypox Testing UPDATE #3**

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Beginning March 6, 2023, the Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at UNC Medical Center (UNCMC) will discontinue its in-house non-variola Orthopoxvirus PCR test. Specimens will be routed to LabCorp for testing. This decision is based on the low volume of samples being received for testing, combined with a low positivity rate.

There is no change to specimen collection [[Mpox Specimen Collection](#)] or test ordering [EPIC order: [Monkeypox PCR, LAB192403](#)].

More information about LabCorp’s Mpox (Orthopoxvirus), DNA, PCR test can be found here: <https://www.labcorp.com/tests/140230/mpox-orthopoxvirus-dna-pcr>

LabCorp reports may include an “Inconclusive” or “Equivocal” result, which can be interpreted as indicated below.

LabCorp Result	Interpretation
Inconclusive	An Inconclusive result is returned when the laboratory does not detect Orthopoxvirus DNA in the sample <u>and</u> there is also a failure to detect the internal control within that same sample. The internal control is a gene that is found in many human cell types and is a measure of sample adequacy. Samples that initially test as Inconclusive are re-tested prior to reporting in an attempt to provide a more definitive result.

Equivocal	An Equivocal result occurs when the laboratory detects a high Ct value near or above the limit of detection for Orthopoxvirus DNA within the PCR assay. This may be due to a low amount of virus in the sample. Samples that initially test as Equivocal are re-tested prior to reporting in an attempt to provide a more definitive result.
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Affiliate laboratories should send specimens directly to their reference laboratory and not through UNCCMCLendon Clinical Laboratories.

Contact Referral testing at 984-974-1414 or Dr. Melissa Miller at [Melissa.Miller@unhealth.unc.edu](mailto:Melissa.Miller@unhealth.unc.edu) with any questions.