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**CLINICAL PATHOLOGY
LABORATORIES**

A Sonic Healthcare Clinical Laboratory

Client Communication

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Monkeypox testing

As of late May 2022, several cases of monkeypox in the United States are confirmed or under investigation by state public health departments or the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Monkeypox is a viral illness that occasionally infects humans in Central and West Africa. It is usually spread by contact with African animals or animal products infected with the virus but can sometimes spread from person to person through large respiratory droplets or contact with body fluids or through intimate physical/sexual contact. CDC provides guidance to the medical community to evaluate possible cases of monkeypox:

At risk patients:

- Those with recent travel to Central or West African countries or certain parts of Europe where monkeypox has been reported,
- Those in contact with a person with confirmed or suspected monkeypox, or
- Intimate sexual contact with those at risk.

Clinical features:

- A rash comprising deep-seated, firm, and well-circumscribed vesicles or pustules that umbilicate or progress over time to scabs.
- Presenting symptoms of fever, chills, distinctive rash, or lymphadenopathy.
- Note: The rash may be confused secondary syphilis, herpes, chancroid, and varicella zoster among others.

Testing:

- CPL does not offer testing for monkeypox, which is a select agent under federal monitoring
 - <https://www.selectagents.gov/sat/list.htm>
- To arrange testing, providers must:
 - Consult state or county health department.
 - If state/county resources cannot be reached, contact the CDC through the CDC Emergency Operations Center (770-488-7100) as soon as monkeypox is suspected.
 - Send specimens through state health department



For more information, see: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/index.html>