

Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network
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Please read the full CDC Health Update by clicking here:
[Updated Case-finding Guidance: Monkeypox Outbreak —](#)
[United States, 2022](#)

The Alaska Section of Epidemiology (SOE) is forwarding this U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Health Update to Alaska health care providers for their awareness.

While no cases of monkeypox infection have been reported in Alaska as yet, we are asking clinicians to have a high index of suspicion for possible cases. We encourage clinicians to read this HAN, which provides helpful updates on the clinical diagnosis and appropriate testing and treatment of people infected with the monkeypox virus.

The Alaska Division of Public Health will also be providing a pop-up webinar for health care providers on monkeypox at 1 pm on Thursday, June 16. [Please register](#) to attend this webinar, *Monkeypox Outbreak Guidance for Alaska Health Care Providers*.

Health care providers in Alaska should report suspected cases to SOE immediately; please call SOE at 907-269-8000, or 1-800-478-0084 after hours. SOE can assist providers in obtaining appropriate clinical specimens that should be routed to the Alaska State Public Health Laboratory (ASPHL) in Anchorage for testing. Briefly, collect multiple dry lesion swab specimen specimens as follows: 1) vigorously swab or brush lesion with two separate sterile dry polyester or Dacron swabs; 2) break off end of applicator of each swab into a 1.5- or 2-mL screw-capped tube with O-ring or place each entire swab in a separate sterile container. Do not add or store in viral or universal transport media. The specimens should be kept cold.

More information can be found on the [DHSS](#) and [CDC](#) monkeypox webpages. Infection prevention and control guidance for suspected monkeypox infections can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/infection-control-home.html>