

### Instructions for specimen collection:

1. Personnel who collect specimens should use personal protective equipment (PPE) in accordance with recommendations for standard, contact, and droplet precautions. (mask, eye protection, gown, gloves)
2. Vigorously swab or brush each lesion **with two** separate sterile dry polyester or Dacron swabs; collect multiple specimens preferably from 2-3 different locations on the body and/or from lesions with differing appearances for preliminary and confirmatory testing. Swabs and other specimens should each be placed in different containers.
3. 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 such as sterile urine cup or tube. **Do not add or store in viral or universal transport media.**
4. Each lesion site that is sampled requires a separate test requisition form  
<https://www.nmhealth.org/publication/view/form/6380/>
5. Immediately refrigerate samples (2-8°C), and contact NMDOH Epidemiology Division 24/7 at (505)-827-0006, NMDOH will provide shipping instructions.
6. PCR blood serum tests are not recommended, additionally antigen and antibody detection methods are not recommended due to serological cross reactivity.