

September 12th 2022

Suspect Monkeypox Laboratory Test Requests at MHDL

The City of Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory (MHDL) continues to work with public health partners to perform laboratory testing on suspect Monkeypox specimens in SE Wisconsin. It is critically important to understand the dangers associated with Monkeypox, and be prepared to mitigate health risks to the public. In order to provide timely and quality data, samples should be handled as follows:

Testing Guidelines

For suspected cases of Monkeypox, immediately consult with the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) at 414-286-6800 (M-F 8am-4:30pm) OR City Hall Operator 414-286-CITY (after hours). The Communicable Disease team at MHD will work directly with the provider. Additional information can be found in the [Wisconsin DHS Health Alert #44: Monkeypox: Recommendations for Detection and Reporting](#). MHDL will accept specimens for Monkeypox testing for MHD and local partners that have limited access to testing services; the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene (WSLH)- continues to offer this test service as well ([WLSH website](#)).

Specimen Collection, Transport & Storage Instructions

Specimen Collection:

- Ensure proper infection control practices when performing specimen collection. See current CDC Infection Prevention and Control recommendations:
<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/infection-control-healthcare.html>
- Materials Needed:
 - Two swabs: Sterile synthetic swab (polyester, nylon, Dacron)
 - *Cotton swabs are not acceptable and will be rejected*
 - Two separate (individual) sterile containers or Viral Transport Medium (VTM) tube for each swab
 - *Universal Transport Medium (UTM) are not acceptable and will be rejected*
 - Collection supplies may be requested by contacting MHDL at 414-286-3914 or mhdlab@milwaukee.gov

Collect two paired swabs from at least one lesion. If possible, submit paired specimens from multiple lesions on different body parts and with different appearances. Swab or brush lesions *vigorously*. There is no need to de-roof the lesion before swabbing.

- Break off and send swab ends, the handles are not needed. Place each swab or lesion crust in a separate sterile container and each container in a separate biohazard bag. Clearly label each specimen container with the patient name and date of birth, date and time of collection, the type of specimen collection and the exact body site it was collected from (important for identifying paired specimens).

Specimen storage:

- After collection, each specimen container should be placed in a secondary leak-proof container such as a biohazardous bag with an outer pocket for lab requisition/paper work.
 - DO NOT PLACE REQUISITION OR PAPERWORK IN THE BAG WITH THE SPECIMEN!
- Specimens should be refrigerated at 2-8°C within 1 hour of collection; and may be stored at this temperature for up to 7 days after collection. If a delay in testing or shipping is expected, store specimens at -20°C or below (for up to 60 days)

Test Ordering Instructions

Test requests must include the [MHDL Microbiology Requisition form, H-445](#).

- In the Molecular Testing section- write Monkeypox in the “other” section of the form.
- Each lesion site that is sampled requires its own requisition to be completed; be sure to indicate the site of the lesion swabbed (e.g. left arm)
- Place a completed lab requisition in the outside pocket of each biohazard bag. DO NOT place the completed form inside the bag touching the specimen.
- In order to ensure rapid and accurate reporting of test results, the “Patient Information” section of the requisition must include AT LEAST Name, DOB, Address, and Sex. Additionally, please ensure that the “Your Facility” section located at the bottom right corner of the form is filled out **as completely as possible** and reflects the correct **phone and fax numbers** for results communication.
- Notify MHDL when specimens are estimated to be delivered to the laboratory for testing.

Packaging and Shipping to MHDL

- Package as a **UN3373 Biological Substance ‘Category B’**
 - Ship with frozen cold packs at a minimum, dry ice is strongly recommended.
- Monday – Friday specimens can be delivered to:
*City of Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory
Zeidler Municipal Building
841 N Broadway St, 2nd Floor
Milwaukee, WI 53202*
- A designated courier parking spot is available adjacent to the front entrance of the Zeidler Municipal Building, 841 N. Broadway, in the alleyway just south of the building (between ZMB and the neighboring 809 N. Broadway building). **See Appendix 1 for more information, including photos/signage of the location.**
- If you *do not* have your own courier please call MHDL at (414) 286-3526. MHDL can schedule pick-ups through Quicksilver on an as-needed basis.
- Please also contact MHDL to coordinate deliveries outside of normal business hours. Refer to **Appendix 2** for after-hours drop off instructions.

Specimen Rejection Criteria

- Specimens received at room temperature and *not* submitted on cold packs or dry ice
- Specimens received outside of the acceptable storage range
- Non-validated specimen types (blood, saliva, calcium alginate swabs, cotton tipped or wood shaft swabs)
- Primary specimen container not labeled with patient identifiers (i.e. name & date of birth)

Test Results

Test results will be available within 1-2 business days of receipt of specimens by MHDL. All results will be reported to the submitter electronically. If specimens test positive for Monkeypox, MHDL will submit one of the original specimens to CDC for confirmatory testing. Select submitters and Local Health Department (LHD) officials will be notified by phone with any positive results. Please ensure that correct phone and fax numbers are provided on the [MHDL Microbiology Requisition form](#) for timely reporting.

Reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/prep-collection-specimens.html>

Appendix 1. Designated Courier Parking at City of Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory

The City of Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory (MHDL) currently has one parking spot designated for courier drop-offs. The spot is located in the alleyway just south of the front entrance of the Zeidler Municipal Building (ZMB), 841 N. Broadway (between ZMB and the neighboring 809 N. Broadway building).

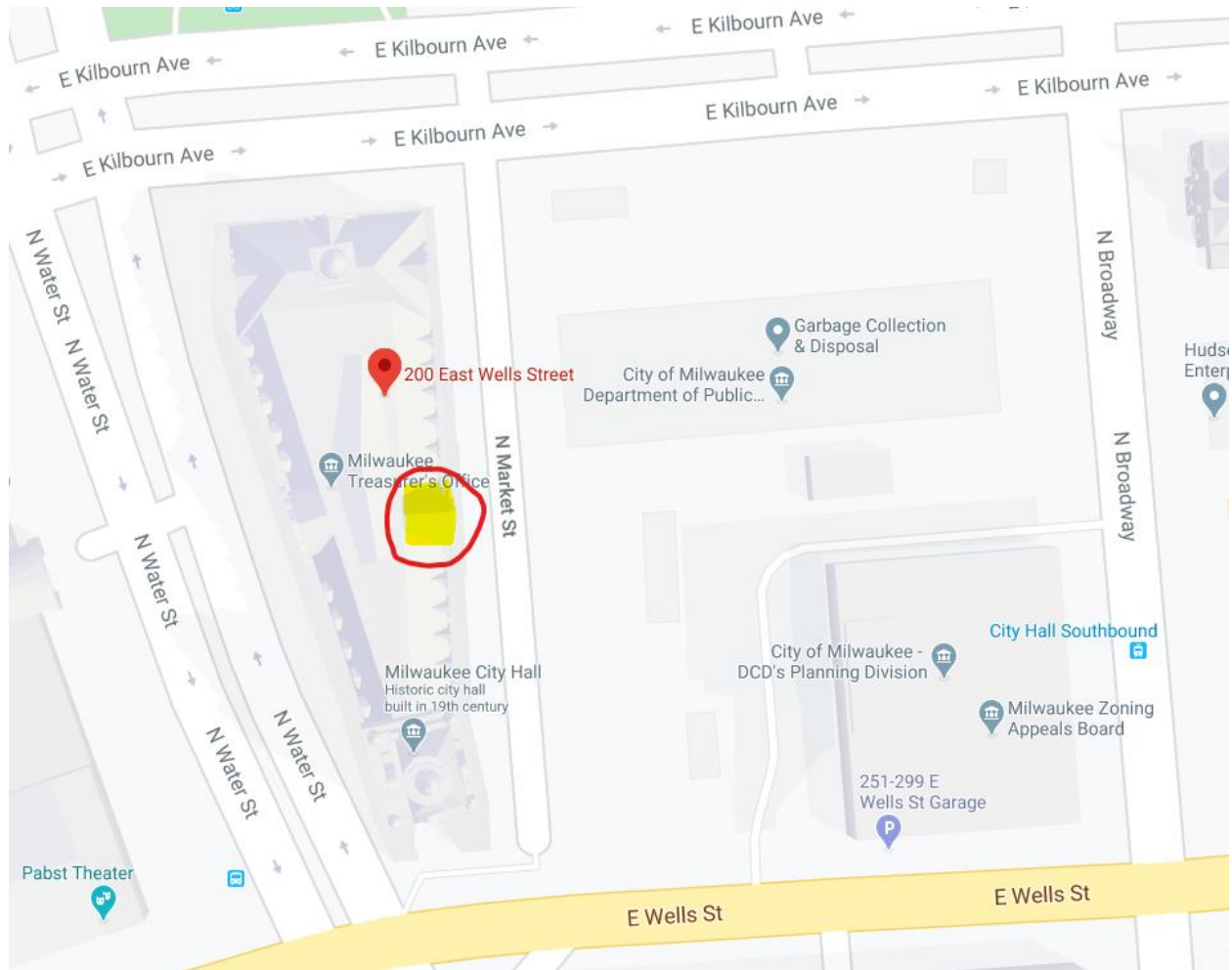
Please see photos below depicting the location and signage.



Appendix 2. After-Hours Deliveries to City of Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory – Courier Information

To complete deliveries to the Laboratory, 841 N. Broadway, Room 205, on the weekend and/or outside of normal business hours (8:00am to 4:45pm Mon-Fri), please follow the instructions below:

1. Go to the Market Street side entrance of City Hall, 200 E. Wells St. (across from the rear entrance to Zeidler Municipal Building, 841 N. Broadway).



2. Present to the Information Desk just through that entrance.
3. Notify the attendant that you have a delivery for the 2nd floor Zeidler Municipal Building lab, and building security will escort you to the lab.
4. Specimens/deliveries requiring refrigeration (includes COVID-19 specimens) can be left in the refrigerator across from the reception desk, and/or room temperature specimens in the tray located on the counter to the left of the refrigerator.
5. Sign in on the visitor log at the reception desk.
6. Push green button on wall to right just before door in order to exit.