

Mpox: Patient FAQ

1. What is mpox?

A: Mpox, previously known as monkeypox, is a rare disease caused by infection with the mpox virus, a virus belonging to the Orthopoxvirus genus. Other viruses in this genus include variola virus (which causes smallpox) vaccinia virus (used in smallpox vaccines) and cowpox virus. This virus has no relation to chickenpox.

2. Is mpox comparable to COVID-19?

A: Though mpox and COVID-19 are both caused by viruses, there are key differences between the diseases, how they are transmitted, their respective symptomology, prognosis, and treatment protocols. Please refer to the CDC websites about these diseases.

3. How can I tell the difference between mpox and herpes?

A: Mpox and herpes may share symptoms like skin lesions, but only your healthcare provider can accurately diagnose and treat these infections. Labcorp currently offers lab tests for both mpox and herpes.

6. How long does it take to get results from a mpox test?

A: Order to result time is three to four days.

7. How will I receive my test results?

A: Your results can be obtained through your healthcare provider and the Labcorp Patient™ Portal at <https://patient.labcorp.com/>

8. How accurate is the mpox test?

A: Labcorp runs the CDC's test for detecting mpox. It has been FDA approved for diagnosing mpox, and is based in highly sensitive PCR technology.

9. What should I do while waiting for test results? Do I need to isolate?

A: If you suspect you have mpox, consider following CDC recommendations for preventing the spread. Consult your healthcare provider for any questions about treating symptoms at home.

Testing: What to know

4. When should I get tested for mpox?

A: If you think that you've been exposed to mpox, or if you have possible symptoms such as skin lesions, please consult your healthcare provider about whether or not testing is appropriate.

5. Can I get tested for mpox at a Labcorp location?

A: At this time, and per CDC guidelines, specimen collection must be performed by a healthcare professional. Once collected, the specimen will then be sent to Labcorp for testing. Labcorp does not collect this specimen type at patient service centers.

I have mpox. Now what?

10. What happens with my positive results information?

A: Your results will be sent to your ordering providers and your designated state health departments as may be required. Labcorp complies with all state and local reporting requirements.