



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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January 3, 2023

RE: Requesting provisional reporting of all non-negative mpox test results from laboratories to public health authorities

Dear Laboratory Directors:

Summary

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is committed in our ongoing efforts to prevent and slow the transmission of mpox, previously referred to as monkeypox virus, in Washington State. [Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\) 246-101-015](#), *Requests for additional information or provisional notification and submission of specimen*, allows the state health officer to request notification of certain diseases and conditions for a period of time less than forty-eight months. To conduct public health surveillance that supports the control of mpox, DOH requests all laboratories report all non-negative test results for mpox or monkeypox virus.

Request

DOH requests all laboratories that conduct mpox testing, including point-of-care test sites, to immediately report all non-negative test results to public health authorities. Receiving this data is a critical piece to public health surveillance of mpox.

Background

On August 4, 2022, the [U.S. Department of Health & Human Services](#) declared the ongoing spread of mpox a public health emergency. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) urges that “any laboratory that performs diagnostics testing for monkeypox should report test results to state, local, territorial or tribal health departments.”

Under WAC 246-101-015, the state health officer may request notification of certain diseases and conditions on a provisional basis for a period of time less than forty-eight months when a disease or condition has recently been acknowledged as a public health concern.

The notifiable conditions rules already require health care providers and health care facilities to report cases and suspected cases of mpox immediately to local health jurisdictions. In order to increase the department’s ability to address concerns surrounding the spread of mpox, and ultimately improve and protect the public’s health, we are requesting laboratories also report all non-negative test results for mpox.

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Reporting

DOH requests laboratory directors immediately report all non-negative test results of mpox to public health authorities following the requirements in WAC 246-101-200, 246-101-201, 246-101-205, 246-101-210, 246-101-215, 246-101-220, 246-101-225, and 246-101-230. Negative test results (undetected/not detected) should not be reported. Laboratory directors do not need to submit isolates or clinical specimens associated with positive mpox results to the Public Health Lab unless requested by DOH.

The notifiable conditions rules apply to laboratories licensed as medical test sites under chapter [70.42 RCW](#) and chapter [246-338 WAC](#), including clinical and reference laboratories, and point-of-care test sites.

For laboratories not currently utilizing Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR), results must be reported to the appropriate local health jurisdiction via secure electronic data transmission as defined in WAC 246-101-010(45). Laboratories already utilizing ELR should report all non-negative results of mpox to DOH via a HL7 message transmitted via ELR. To request detailed guidance on ELR or secure electronic transmission reporting, please contact ELR@doh.wa.gov.

We highly value and are grateful for the contributions that your laboratories are making to the mpox public health response and appreciate your assistance in submitting mpox test results.

Best,



Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH
Secretary of Health

CC: Elizabeth Perez, Chief of Public Affairs & Equity, Department of Health
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