



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



Monkeypox Now Reportable as a Disease of Public Health Significance

Effective June 16, 2022, Monkeypox has been designated a Disease of Public Health Significance under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* making all local cases reportable to the Durham Region Health Department (DRHD).

Please see the updated [Diseases of Public Health Significance List](#) and [Notification Form](#) (found at durham.ca/HCP under the tab 'Forms'; also attached). **Monkeypox is now reportable as “Smallpox and other Orthopoxviruses including Monkeypox” and must be reported to DRHD immediately at:**

- Phone: 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 ext. 2996
- Confidential Fax: 905-666-6215
- After Hours: 905-576-9991 or 1-800-372-1104

The Diseases of Public Health Significance List and Notification Form can also be found on the [Reportable Diseases landing page](https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/reportable-diseases.aspx) (<https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/reportable-diseases.aspx>).

Monkeypox Testing Update

Approval for testing and notification of specimen submission by the Public Health Ontario Laboratory (PHOL) is no longer required. Clinicians are advised to follow [PHO's Monkeypox Virus Test Information Index](#) (or search for “Monkeypox Virus” on the main PHOL website).

- If the patient has skin lesions,
 - a maximum of 3 swabs of 3 different skin lesions can be submitted
 - NP swab/blood serology testing are not necessary
- If the patient does not have skin lesions or you are unable to submit skin lesion swabs, then order NP swab and blood serology

Effective June 2, 2022, clinical specimens from patients undergoing monkeypox testing have been temporarily reclassified as **UN3373 Biological Substance, Category B** for land transport. In addition to the routine category B requirement, the outer packaging must be marked, on a contrasting background, with “**TU 0886**”, “**Temporary Certificate – TU 0886**” or “**Certificat Temporaire – TU 0886**”.

June 21, 2022

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

