



Update: Guidance on Packaging and Treatment of mpox Medical Waste

June 12, 2024

In July 2022, the New York State Department of Health (Department) issued Guidance on Packaging and Treatment of monkeypox (mpox or MPXV) Medical Waste. This guidance was based on information released by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and stated the following:

- If clinician teams determine that a patient does not have known epidemiological risk for Clade I (formerly known as Congo Basin), it is appropriate to manage waste from suspected monkeypox patients as RMW.
- If epidemiological risk factors indicate a risk for Clade I (formerly known as Congo Basin), waste should be managed as a Category A infectious substance pending clade confirmation. If testing shows any clades except Clade II (formally known as West African), it needs to be packaged, transported, and treated as Category A waste.

On March 11, 2024, USDOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued a safety advisory notice, [Classification of MPXV Diagnostic Samples and Waste](#). The advisory states that clinical waste containing MPXV materials of either clade may be transported as "UN3291, Regulated medical waste, n.o.s., 6.2", and patient diagnostic samples may be transported as "UN3373, Biological substance, Category B, 6.2". However, MPXV Clade I viral cultures—i.e., materials containing or contaminated with intentionally propagated virus—are still most appropriately classified as Category A infectious substances.

Considering this notice, the Department is updating their guidance on the packaging and treatment of mpox medical waste. Medical waste generated from suspected mpox patients are designated as Category B infectious substances, regardless if MPXV is Clade I or Clade II, and can be packaged, transported and treated as RMW. However, materials containing or contaminated with intentionally propagated virus of Clade I MPXV are classified as Category A infectious substances and the materials need to be packaged, transported, and treated as Category A waste.

Additional Information:

New York State Department of Health's mpox Webpage:

<https://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/monkeypox/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's mpox Webpage: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/mpox/index.html>

03/15/2024: Lab Advisory: Guidance for Specimens and Clinical Waste Suspected to Contain Clade I Monkeypox Virus

<https://www.cdc.gov/locs/2024/03-15-2024-Lab-Advisory->

[Guidance-Specimens-Clinical-Waste-Suspected-Contain-Clade-I-Monkeypox-Virus.html#:~:text=Communi](https://www.cdc.gov/locs/2024/03-15-2024-Lab-Advisory-Guidance-Specimens-Clinical-Waste-Suspected-Contain-Clade-I-Monkeypox-Virus.html#:~:text=Communi)



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U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Safety Advisory Notice1—Classification of MPXV Diagnostic Samples and Waste

<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/sites/phmsa.dot.gov/files/2024-03/PHMSA%20Safety%20Advisory%20Notice%20-%20Classification%20of%20MPXV%20Diagnostic%20Samples%20and%20Waste.pdf>