



## VACCINIA

### Protocol Overview and Methods:

*Vaccinia* virus is a “pox”-type virus related to smallpox. It is used to induce immunity against smallpox. The smallpox vaccine contains live vaccinia virus; therefore, proper care of the smallpox vaccination site is essential. Autoinoculation and person-to-person transmission can occur until the scab at the vaccination site falls off.

DPHL can test for *Vaccinia* viruses in specimens from patients via qPCR at low and moderate risk categories according to evaluation criteria in the CDC rash illness protocol. **Any positive qPCR results for *Vaccinia* are considered preliminary positive and must be sent to CDC for confirmation.**

- Herpes Simplex Virus identification/rule-out testing is performed via direct fluorescence antibody (DFA) and cell culture only.
- Molecular methods are used to detect specific segments of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) that these organisms contain. If present, DNA segments from *Vaccinia* are amplified until there is a sufficient quantity for the instrument to detect. Specimens from patients in the high-risk category for possible smallpox will not be tested at DPHL.

**Contact Information:** DPHL Director: 302-223-1520. Answering service is available at the same number during non-business hours.

**For More Information:** **24/7 CDC Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156**  
<http://www.cdc.gov/az/>