



Health Advisory: Updated Clinical Provider Guidance for Monkeypox

July 27, 2022

Purpose

To provide updated guidance to County health care providers regarding monkeypox reporting, testing, vaccine prioritization, and treatment.

Situation Update

Monkeypox transmission is ongoing in the Bay Area. As of July 25, 2022, there are 50 reported monkeypox cases among Alameda County residents and 434 cases in California. Monkeypox is spreading primarily through direct skin to skin contact with another person infected with monkeypox. Most local cases reported to date are among gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men. There have been no deaths reported among monkeypox cases in the United States, and hospitalization numbers remain low.

Monkeypox testing is now more widely available through commercial laboratories. However, vaccine supplies remain limited, and treatment is only available through an Expanded Access Investigational New Drug protocol through the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

The Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) has a zero-tolerance stance to stigma and discrimination. We have received complaints of poor treatment on the part of residents attempting to access healthcare regarding suspected monkeypox exposure. Since persons who have been diagnosed with monkeypox are often subject to stigma and discrimination based on socioeconomic status, race, sexual orientation, and gender identity, ACPHD strongly recommends that all healthcare workers are trained to provide sensitized and evidence-based care, including care that is culturally and linguistically appropriate, to these groups. Additional background information regarding monkeypox can be found in the resources listed at the bottom of this alert.

Screening and Triage

Early recognition and implementation of appropriate infection control precautions is critical to disease control. Healthcare settings are advised to utilize existing opportunities at patient check-in or during telephone triage to screen patients who may have had an exposure or are experiencing symptoms of monkeypox. If a patient reports any new rash/lesions, [full personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) is

advised for all patient encounters including initial triage and vitals assessment. Symptomatic patients should be immediately put in a private room to avoid potential exposures in the waiting area.

If a patient is identified with a suspected or confirmed exposure to monkeypox, the clinician should assess for symptoms as well as eligibility for post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) with JYNNEOS vaccine if the patient was exposed within 14 days.

Reporting

Report suspected and confirmed monkeypox cases to the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) within 1 working day.

To report suspected cases, please submit a completed [monkeypox screening form](#) to ACPHD by email to monkeypox@acgov.org. *Please note, while clinicians do not need public health approval to test for monkeypox through commercial laboratory, reporting of suspected cases in whom a monkeypox test has been ordered is required.*

To report confirmed cases of orthopox or monkeypox, please submit a completed Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) form by fax to (510) 273-3744.

Testing

Consider monkeypox testing for anyone with a skin lesion suggestive of monkeypox. Testing is strongly recommended for those with skin lesions following exposure to a suspected or confirmed monkeypox case and for gay and bisexual men and men who have sex with men who have any new rash illness or skin lesion. For patients with genital or oral lesions, syphilis and herpes should also be considered, along with HIV testing. Co-infection with chlamydia and gonorrhea is being reported in some monkeypox cases.

Testing for monkeypox is now available through commercial laboratories including LabCorp, Quest and others. Clinicians should check directly with their regular laboratory regarding test availability, specimen collection, and shipping requirements. At this time, testing is only available for specimens collected from skin or mucosal lesions. ACPHD will receive results from tests sent to reference laboratories via the state's electronic laboratory reporting system. **When sending specimens to commercial laboratories, providers do not need to contact ACPHD for testing approval but should still report suspected cases by submitting a screening form as described above.**

Persons who present with signs and symptoms consistent with monkeypox should have samples taken in accordance with [infection control guidance](#). Persons who are tested should be provided information regarding [isolation and symptom management](#), and about ways in which [monkeypox is transmitted to others](#).

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is still offering testing for monkeypox; however, approval for testing at CDPH must be obtained from ACPHD. If testing coordination through CDPH is needed, complete and email a screening form to monkeypox@acgov.org AND call (510) 267-3250



during business hours (select option 2). After hours, providers should call Alameda County Fire Dispatch at (925) 422–75795 and request the Public Health Duty Officer.

Vaccine Supply and Prioritization

The JYNNEOS vaccine is in short supply, and CDPH and ACPHD recommend prioritizing first dose of the vaccine to persons at greatest risk for monkeypox until supply improves. ACPHD does not need to approve providers vaccinating persons who meet criteria for vaccination defined below. Experience is limited, but available clinical trial data indicates a potentially protective immune response after a single vaccine dose. Currently CDPH recommends prioritizing second doses, if available, to persons who are immunocompromised.

Based on the current JYNNEOS vaccine supply, ACPHD recommends vaccination for the persons noted below:

- Close contact to someone with confirmed monkeypox
- Close contact to someone with high clinical suspicion (i.e., characteristic rash and risk factors) for monkeypox
- Close contact with others at a venue or event or within a social group where a suspected or confirmed monkeypox case was identified
- Persons living with HIV
- A healthcare professional who has been identified with a high or intermediate risk occupational exposure to someone who has confirmed monkeypox according to the [CDC exposure risk assessment](#)
- A laboratory worker who routinely handles monkeypox virus samples for diagnosis or testing purposes

As vaccine supply increases, ACPHD will modify its recommendations and post them on our [website](#). Since CDPH will allocate supplies of JYNNEOS vaccine to Counties, in part, based on whether healthcare facilities enter information regarding JYNNEOS vaccine administered to persons in the California Immunization Registry (CAIR), it is important that all healthcare facilities enter data into CAIR in a timely manner.

Treatment

Most reported monkeypox cases are mild and self-limited, but severe disease can occur and may require treatment with tecovirimat (TPOXX). In addition, certain populations at higher risk of severe disease, including persons who are immunocompromised and young children, may also benefit from treatment with TPOXX. Although there are no U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA)-approved treatments specifically for monkeypox, TPOXX has an FDA indication for treating smallpox and is available through the [CDC](#) to treat cases of monkeypox via an Expanded Access Investigational New Drug protocol. Information for how healthcare providers and healthcare systems can obtain tecovirimat (TPOXX) can be found at the [CDC website](#). TPOXX providers are needed in Alameda County.

ACPHD recommends following [CDC guidance for TPOXX treatment](#). Other health departments have guidance that may also be useful.

Additional Resources:

- [ACPHD Monkeypox Epi and Clinical Information](#)
 - ACPHD CMR Form for [Reporting](#)
 - Monkeypox Patient Screening Form
- [ACPHD Monkeypox General Information](#)
- [Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#)
 - [Clinical Recognition | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#)
 - [Infection Control | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#)
 - [Considerations for Monkeypox Vaccination | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#)
 - [Guidance for Tecovirimat Use Under Expanded Access Investigational New Drug Protocol during 2022 U.S. Monkeypox Cases | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#)
 - [Information for Healthcare Providers on Obtaining and Using TPOXX \(Tecovirimat\) for Treatment of Monkeypox | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#)
 - [Monitoring People Who Have Been Exposed | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#)
- [Monkeypox \(ca.gov\)](#)
- Food & Drug Administration Jynneos [Prescriber Information](#)
- [New York City Health Monkeypox Treatment Guidance](#)