



Health Advisory: Monkeypox (MPX) Guidance for Healthcare Providers

October 14, 2022

Purpose

To update healthcare providers regarding: 1) JYNNEOS vaccine expanded eligibility criteria; 2) severe manifestations of MPX among people who are immunocompromised; and 3) screening suspected/confirmed MPX cases for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Background

Monkeypox (MPX) virus transmission continues in the Bay Area. As of October 11, 2022, there have been 233 reported MPX cases among Alameda County residents and 5,136 reported cases in California. Although anyone can acquire MPX, most local cases reported to date are among gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men. Additional background information regarding MPX can be found in the resources listed at the bottom of this advisory. Although MPX cases in Alameda County are decreasing, healthcare providers should continue to be vigilant for new cases and reach eligible persons for vaccine. Even after the current outbreak ends, future clusters of cases should be anticipated.

Eliminate Stigma and Discrimination

Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) has a zero-tolerance stance to stigma and discrimination. ACPHD strongly recommends that all healthcare workers are [trained](#) to provide sensitive and evidence-based care, including care that is culturally/linguistically appropriate and gender affirming, to the following overlapping populations: low-income individuals, people of color, immigrants, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender queer and gender non-binary people.

Updated Eligibility Criteria for JYNNEOS Vaccine

ACPHD has expanded JYNNEOS vaccine access to include populations who may benefit from pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) as well as post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP/PEP++). In Alameda County, although 40% of persons with MPX are Hispanic/Latinx and 25% are Black/African American, only 19% of vaccine recipients are Hispanic/Latinx and 12% Black/African American. Individuals who meet any one of the following criteria are currently eligible for the JYNNEOS vaccine in Alameda County:

- Gay and bisexual men and their sex partners
- Transgender people and their sex partners
- Sex workers and their sex partners
- People with multiple sex partners
- People living with HIV



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- People who had sex at any sex venue
- Healthcare workers who are likely to collect laboratory specimens from persons with MPX (e.g., persons working in sexual health clinics or clinical settings that serve at risk populations)
- Laboratory workers who perform MPX testing

Severe Manifestations of MPX Among People Who are Immunocompromised

On September 29, 2022, CDC released a [Health Advisory Note](#) about severe manifestations of MPX in people who are immunocompromised due to HIV or other conditions. Those who are immunocompromised due to HIV or other conditions are at higher risk for developing severe manifestations of MPX, which may involve hospitalization and/or substantial morbidity; two cases have died in the US. Severe manifestations of disease may include:

- Lesions covering a significant proportion of the body, which may be associated with secondary bacterial or fungal infections.
- Lesions on sensitive areas, especially mucosal surfaces such as oropharynx, rectum, vagina, urethra, that result in severe pain and impede daily activities.
- Rash that is persistent or atypical, especially with coalescing and/or necrotic lesions.
- Severe lymphadenopathy.
- Lesions that are necrotizing or obstructing another structure (such as the airway).
- Lesions that lead to stricture and/or scar formation resulting in morbidity, such as urethral/bowel strictures, phimosis, facial scarring.
- Involvement of multiple organ systems and comorbidities:
 - Oropharyngeal lesions inhibiting oral intake.
 - Pulmonary involvement with nodular lesions.
 - Neurologic conditions including encephalitis and transverse myelitis.
 - Cardiac complications including myocarditis and pericardial disease.
 - Ocular conditions including severe conjunctivitis and sight-threatening corneal ulcerations.
 - Urologic involvement including urethritis and penile necrosis.

Severe disease can occur in both immunocompetent and immunocompromised people; however, most reported cases of severe MPX manifestations have been among people living with untreated HIV (CD4 <200 cells/ml). Healthcare providers should recognize risk factors for severe disease and take appropriate countermeasures, such as early administration of tecovirimat (TPOXX) and providing antiretroviral therapy for people with HIV, in order to prevent or mitigate clinical signs in those who are immunocompromised.



Screening Suspected/Confirmed MPX cases for HIV and other STIs

In an analysis of nearly 2000 MPX cases reported during May-July 2022, CDC noted that 41% were persons living with HIV and 38% had a sexually transmitted infection such as gonorrhea, chlamydia, or syphilis in the previous year. Because of the potential for co-infection and alternative diagnoses, sexually active adults and adolescents with suspected or confirmed MPX should be screened for HIV and other STIs. In addition, it is important for clinicians to follow-up suspected and confirmed MPX cases to assess working diagnosis, progression of disease, improvement, and laboratory results.

Healthcare providers

- Healthcare providers should continue to offer JYNNEOS Vaccine to those who meet the eligibility criteria, with enhanced efforts to reach Black and African American, and Hispanic and Latinx persons. Completion of the two-dose series provides the best protection, even if beyond the 28-day window between doses.
- ACPHD is available to provide/facilitate consultation on complex patients with MPX. CDC has provided resources for cases with severe manifestations of disease. More information can be found in the [CDC Health Advisory](#).
- Healthcare providers should screen all sexually active suspect or confirmed MPX cases for HIV infection, syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhea (chlamydia and gonorrhea screening at all anatomic sites of exposure: anus, oropharynx, urethra).

Additional Resources

[California Prevention Training Center](#)

- Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity
- STD Expert Hour Webinar - Sexual History Taking
- Moving from Bias to Engagement Using Cultural Humility
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity

[CDC STD Treatment Guidelines](#)

[CDC STD Screening Recommendations for Men who have Sex with Men \(MSM\)](#)

[CDPH -- Considerations for Expanded MPX Post- and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis](#)



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[Situational Update for Clinicians about Severe Monkeypox Virus Infections, Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity \(COCA\) Oct. 6, 2022](#)

[CDC MMWR on HIV and STI Co-Infections among MPX Cases](#)

[ACPHD MPX Website—For Health Care Providers](#)

[CDPH MPX website](#)