



Health Update

October 21, 2022

Fresno County Department of Public Health Monkeypox (MPX) Updates - October 2022

There have been several new updates and developments related to monkeypox (MPX) infection and strategies for response. This advisory summarizes the latest research and guidelines.

1. California has over 5,000 cases and Fresno County has had a total of 54 cases. More information and statistics available here: [Monkeypox \(MPX\) | County of Fresno](#)
2. Sexual contact remains the major driver of transmission, and concurrent rates of HIV and STDs remain very high in the MPX-diagnosed population.
 - a. ALL PATIENTS WITH MPX SHOULD BE CHECKED FOR HIV AND OTHER SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS if the transmission occurred via intimate/sexual contact.
 - b. People who are immunocompromised due to HIV or other conditions are at a higher risk for severe manifestations of MPX than people who are immunocompetent.
 - c. Because people with HIV-associated immunocompromise are at risk for severe manifestations of MPX, the HIV status of all sexually active adults and adolescents with suspected or confirmed MPX should be determined.
 - d. CDC Health Alert Network: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2022/han00475.asp>
 - e. CDC MMWR: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/pdfs/mm7136a1-H.pdf>
3. Racial inequalities have become evident, with Black and Hispanic patients being overrepresented in new MPX diagnosis and underrepresented among those with access to preventative services including vaccination.

Categories of Health Alert Messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

Health Information: Provides general health information which is not considered to be of emergent nature

Promotion, preservation and protection of the community's health

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- a. [Kaiser Family Foundation: https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/national-data-show-continuing-disparities-in-mpx-monkeypox-cases-and-vaccinations-among-black-and-hispanic-people/](https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/national-data-show-continuing-disparities-in-mpx-monkeypox-cases-and-vaccinations-among-black-and-hispanic-people/)
 - b. Health clinics and providers who serve the BIPOC population need to make sure that messaging/instructions and services are offered to these populations. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has a number of communication tools in English and Spanish to help patients and families understand the risks and signs of MPX and how to stay safe.
 - c. MPX Toolkit: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/Communications-Toolkits/Monkeypox.aspx>
4. Non-sexual transmission is also being described, typically related to household contact among family members and roommates etc. Any patient with MPX should be isolating in a single room with access to their own bathroom if it all possible. We are aware of several local cases that have chosen to isolate inside of a hotel, and it is paramount to work with the patient, their contacts, and any other possibly infected personnel such as hotel staff and housekeepers to ensure everyone's safety.
5. Another higher risk setting is congregate settings such as jails and homeless shelters, and there is guidance available for how to minimize risk to others whenever MPX patients are identified in the settings:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/MPX/Monkeypox-Guidance-for-Congregate-Living-Settings.aspx>
- a. California OSHA has developed guidance about how to manage employment areas whenever an aerosol transmissible disease (ATD) is affecting workers. Whenever MPX patients are in healthcare settings, this ATD standard applies:
<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/documents/monkeypox-guidance.pdf>
 - b. New or Cal OSHA guidelines: If MPX patient expected to be dispositioned in less than five hours, they should be isolated if feasible in their own room or a negative pressure room. Everyone around them needs to use PPE, including full contact PPE for clinicians and healthcare workers who are assessing and treating the patient, testing their lesions with swabs, blood draws, etc. After 5 hours, they MUST be in an airborne infection isolation room.
 - c. Specimen collection is a higher risk activity. DO NOT USE SHARPS and DO NOT UNROOF the lesion at the time of swab collection.

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- d. [MMWR, Health Care Personnel Exposures to Subsequently Laboratory-Confirmed Monkeypox Patients — Colorado, 2022 \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- e. [Monkeypox virus Infection Resulting from an Occupational Needlestick — Florida, 2022 \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- 6. Criteria for vaccinations have been updated by CDPH. The major changes are that anyone with HIV is now eligible for the Jynneos vaccine. Vaccine supply is robust in Fresno County and we are urging all providers and at-risk patients and healthcare workers to get vaccinated as soon as they can. More information can be found at the FCDPH MPX website (www.fcdph.org/MpxMD), and the flyer linked below:
<https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/home/showpublisheddocument/67458/637993715722930000>
- 7. Treatment with tecovirimat (TPOXX) is recommended for high-risk lesions or those with comorbid diseases that make them at higher risk. For more info, see FCDPH 8/19/22 Advisory <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/home/showpublisheddocument/68461/637965242193770000>
- 8. Other supportive care for painful lesions and commonly asked questions about how to manage MPX can be found on CDPH's MPX Questions and Answers:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Monkeypox-Questions-and-Answers.aspx>
- 9. Health provider letter was released by the CDPH Office of AIDS and should be read by any practitioner who manages HIV patients in their practice. You can access this letter here:
https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/CDPH%20Document%20Library/DCL-MPX-Jynneos-Vaccine_ADA.pdf
- 10. Home isolation for MPX-- Guidance for the General Public:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/MPX/MPX-Home-Isolation-Guidance-for-the-General-Public.aspx>
- 11. As required by Health and Safety Code section 1342.3, for the duration of the California State of Emergency regarding Monkeypox, full-service health plans must cover the following services with no cost sharing and without prior authorization or other utilization management: treatment, diagnostic services, immunizations, and therapeutics. See this All -Plan Letter from 10/6/22 for more information. [APL 22-019 - Health Plan Coverage of Monkeypox Testing, Vaccinations, and Therapeutics \(ca.gov\)](#)
- 12. Upcoming CDC COCA Call on 10/27/22: [Webinar Thursday, October 27, 2022 - Update on Monkeypox in Children, Adolescents, and People Who are Pregnant or Breastfeeding \(cdc.gov\)](#)