



Health, Housing & Community Services Department
Public Health Officer Unit
Communicable Disease Prevention & Control Program

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Health Advisory

Monkeypox Update and Guidance

(May 26, 2022)

Background

On May 20, 2022 the CDC issued a [Health Advisory](#) regarding a confirmed case of monkeypox virus infection in an adult male from Massachusetts with recent travel to Canada. Additionally, multiple clusters of monkeypox virus have been reported in other countries. Many of the cases involve men who have sex with men (MSM) without a history of travel to an endemic country. Since the May 20 Health Advisory release, [Sacramento County](#) has reported a likely case in a resident with recent travel to Europe.

Healthcare providers should be alert for patients who have rash illness consistent with monkeypox virus (<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/clinical-recognition.html>). Monkeypox is currently an extremely rare diagnosis. Therefore, when evaluating patients with rash, other more common causes such as herpes, syphilis, molluscum contagiosum, varicella zoster, etc., should be considered first.

Action Requested

1. **REPORT** immediately all Berkeley residents who meet the current suspect monkeypox case definition to the City of Berkeley Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Program (**510-981-5292** during normal business hours or after-hours Berkeley Police Dispatch at **510-981-5911** and ask for the Health Officer on call).

Suspected Case Definition: Patient with an unexplained rash (unlikely to be secondary syphilis, herpes, varicella, molluscum contagiosum, or other diagnosis) that is consistent with monkeypox (firm, well circumscribed, deep-seated, and umbilicated lesions; progress from macules to papules to vesicles to pustules to scabs) especially in patients who:

- 1) Reported close contact with a person or people with confirmed or suspected monkeypox and/or with a similar rash; and/or
- 2) Report travel in the past month to an area where confirmed cases have been reported; and/or
- 3) Is a man who has sex with men MSM.

Please distribute to all providers and staff in your practice

2. **IMPLEMENT** infection control actions as soon as possible.
 - Patients presenting with suspected monkeypox should be placed in a single-person exam room with the door closed, or an airborne infection isolation room, if available. The patient should remain masked and any exposed skin lesions should be covered with a sheet or gown.
 - Healthcare personnel evaluating patients with suspected monkeypox should wear the following personal protective equipment (PPE): gloves, gown, eye protection (goggles or face-shield), and a N95 or equivalent or higher-level respirator. PPE should be donned before entering the patient's room and be used for all patient contact. Remove and discard gloves, gown and eye protection, and perform hand hygiene prior to leaving the patient's room. Remove and discard the respirator after leaving the room and closing the door.
 - Any EPA-registered hospital-grade disinfectant should be used for cleaning and disinfecting environmental surfaces.

3. **CONSULT** with the City of Berkeley Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Program to discuss testing and isolation. Patients may need testing through the California Department of Public Health. Additional guidance on specimen collection, submission, and patient isolation instructions will be provided.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION:

- More than one lesion should be sampled, preferably from different body sites
- Vigorously swab or brush lesion(s) with two separate sterile nylon, polyester, or Dacron swabs with plastic or aluminum shaft.
- Break off swabs into separate 1.5-2-mL screw-capped tubes with O-ring, or place each entire swab in a separate sterile container.
- **Do not add or store swabs in viral or universal transport media.**

Additional Resources:

CDC Health Alert: https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2022/pdf/CDC_HAN_466.pdf

CDC Clinical Recognition of Monkeypox:

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/clinical-recognition.html>

CDC Monkeypox: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html>

CDC Infection control for hospitals:

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/infection-control-hospital.html>

CDPH Health Alert: [Health Advisory: Monkeypox Virus Infection in the United States and Other Non-endemic Countries \(ca.gov\)](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Health-Alert-2022-001.aspx)