



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

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Health Alert

Monkeypox Update

August 10, 2022

Cases of monkeypox continue to rise in California. At the time of this Health Alert there have been 13 confirmed cases of monkeypox among City of Berkeley residents. While monkeypox can infect anyone, the vast majority of monkeypox cases continue to be among men who have sex with men, with transmission occurring primarily through direct skin to skin contact with a person infected with monkeypox.

Testing and Reporting

Testing for monkeypox has become more widely available. Testing is now available through [commercial labs](#) and remains available through the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Public Health Laboratory. Testing through commercial labs requires no approval from the health department and has quick turnaround times. Individuals who are tested should be [instructed to self-isolate](#) and be provided guidance for symptom management.

Providers should report suspected and confirmed monkeypox cases to the City of Berkeley Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Program within 1 working day. To report a suspected monkeypox case submit a [Monkeypox Screening Worksheet](#) by email to COBCD@cityofberkeley.info. To report a confirmed orthopox or monkeypox case submit a [Confidential Morbidity Report](#) by fax (510-981-5345) or email.

Vaccine

The JYNNEOS vaccine is the only vaccine currently available in California for the prevention of monkeypox. Vaccine doses remain limited. People in the following categories are currently considered eligible for vaccination:

- Gay, bisexual, and other men or trans people who have sex with men, who have had more than 1 sexual partner in the past 14 days
- Sex workers of any sexual orientation or gender identity
- Persons who have had close contact within the past 14 days with someone with suspected or confirmed monkeypox
- Persons who had close contact with others at a venue or event or within a social group in the past 14 days where a suspected or confirmed monkeypox case was identified. This includes persons who received



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notice from a venue or event of a potential exposure within the past 14 days

- Laboratory workers who routinely perform monkeypox virus testing
- Clinicians who have had a high-risk occupational exposure (e.g., examined monkeypox lesions or collected monkeypox specimens without using recommended personal protective equipment)

CDPH is currently recommending prioritizing first doses of vaccine, except in cases where the patient is immunocompromised and unlikely to mount an adequate immune response to the first dose. While supplies remain scarce, people who are not immunocompromised may receive their second JYNNEOS dose at an interval greater than 4 weeks after their first dose. For inquiries related to the vaccine please email phmailbox@cityofberkeley.info or call (510) 981-5300.

Treatment

Monkeypox is usually a self-limited disease that doesn't require hospitalization or treatment with specific therapy. To-date no deaths from monkeypox have occurred in the United States. Many patients with monkeypox do require symptomatic treatment and pain control, particularly if they have anogenital lesions. For patients with confirmed monkeypox who are [experiencing severe illness or who are at high-risk for severe illness](#), treatment with Tecovirimat may be considered. Tecovirimat is an antiviral medication currently available for use for monkeypox in the United States under an Expanded Access Investigational New Drug Protocol. A very limited number of providers in the Bay Area are currently prescribers of Tecovirimat. For inquiries related to Tecovirimat please email COBCD@cityofberkeley.info

Additional Resources:

[Berkeley Health Department Communicable Disease Reporting](#)

[CDPH Monkeypox Resources for Healthcare Providers](#)

[FDA Jynneos Prescriber Information](#)

[CDC Information for Healthcare Providers on Obtaining and Using Tecovirimat](#)