



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH

July 22, 2022

Dear Health Care Provider,

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH), Bureau of Epidemiology staff have been actively responding to reports of suspect cases and answering questions from providers regarding monkeypox. Healthcare providers are an important part of our public health response as you are the first line of our response and will likely be the first point of evaluation for monkeypox cases. Below is updated information regarding how to identify, test, report and treat suspected monkeypox cases as well as provide resources available to you as these patients present to your offices and facilities.

### **Clinical Presentation**

- The classic presentation of monkeypox infection is well-described and consists of a prodrome including fever, lymphadenopathy, headache, and muscle aches followed by a characteristic rash culminating in firm, deep-seated, well-circumscribed, and sometimes umbilicated lesions.
- However, many cases in the current outbreak are not presenting with prodromal symptoms. Sometimes, people get a rash/lesion first, followed by other symptoms. Others only experience a rash/lesions.
- Additional details on clinical presentation can be found in [PA-HAN 647](#) and in the resources section below.

### **Testing**

- Several commercial laboratories (i.e., Aegis Science, Labcorp, Mayo Clinic Laboratories, Quest Diagnostics and Sonic Healthcare) and the PADOH state public health laboratory are offering testing for monkeypox.
- Providers who suspect a patient has signs or symptoms compatible with monkeypox should arrange for specimen collection and testing.
- No approval is needed to test at commercial laboratories and providers should consult directly with these laboratories on specimen collection and ordering procedures.
- Approval is needed prior to submitting specimens to the PADOH state public health laboratory. Guidance on this process is available [here](#).

### **Reporting**

- Clinicians who suspect monkeypox in a patient should contact PADOH's Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at 717-787-3350 or their local health department immediately.

### **Treatment/Management**

- Many people infected with monkeypox virus have a mild, self-limiting disease course without specific therapy. However, the prognosis for monkeypox depends on multiple factors, such as previous vaccination status, initial health status, concurrent illnesses, and comorbidities among others. Patients with severe disease or who are at risk for developing severe disease should be considered for treatment. Additional guidance on treatment is available [here](#). Providers who want



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH

to request treatment for patients should contact the PADOH Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at 717-787-3350 or their local health department. Treatment approval is being done on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- If suspect monkeypox patients are stable, they do not need be hospitalized. Suspect monkeypox patients should be provided with [home isolation and infection control recommendations](#) to be followed while testing is pending, or if found positive for monkeypox, until all lesions have resolved, the scabs have fallen off, and a fresh layer of intact skin has formed.

### Contacts

- The virus can spread from person-to-person through direct contact with the infectious rash/lesions, scabs, or body fluids. It also can be spread by respiratory secretions during prolonged, face-to-face contact (within a 6-foot radius for >3 hours), or during intimate physical contact, such as kissing, cuddling, or sex.
- [CDC guidance](#) is available to assist in assessing the risk of individuals with potential exposure to cases of monkeypox.
- Healthcare providers should advise cases to alert contacts meeting the above description and ask that they monitor their health and seek medical care if they develop symptoms.

### Vaccine

- Two vaccines licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are available for preventing monkeypox infection – JYNNEOS (also known as Imvamune or Imvanex) and ACAM2000.
- In the United States, there is currently a limited supply of JYNNEOS, although more is expected in coming weeks and months.
- There is an ample supply of ACAM2000. However, there are several concerns with the administration and risk profile of this vaccine, so current response efforts are focusing on administration of the JYNNEOS vaccine.
- Consistent with federal guidance, two approaches are currently being used for the current outbreak.
  - Vaccine Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) which is given following a [high or intermediate](#) risk exposure to a monkeypox case to help prevent illness from monkeypox virus.
  - Expanded Vaccine Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (Expanded PEP) which is being given to people with certain risk factors that may make them more likely to have been recently exposed to monkeypox. This approach aims to reach the same people for post-exposure prophylaxis but not require a documented exposure to someone with confirmed monkeypox.
- Currently, this outbreak is largely affecting gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men. People who may be eligible for vaccination include:
  - People who have been identified by public health officials as a contact of someone with monkeypox
  - People who may have been exposed to monkeypox, such as:



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH

- People who are aware that one of their sexual partners in the past 2 weeks has been diagnosed with monkeypox
- People who had multiple sexual partners in the past 2 weeks in an area with known monkeypox cases
- Monkeypox Vaccine Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) refers to administering vaccine to someone at high risk before they have an exposure to monkeypox. PrEP is not currently being offered at this time. However, as vaccine supply increases this will be re-evaluated for expanded use.
- Providers can refer patients who may need PEP and expanded PEP doses to 1-877-PA-HEALTH.

**Resources**

CDC General Information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/index.html>

CDC Information for Healthcare Professionals

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

CDC Presentation - Monkeypox in the United States: What Clinicians Need to Know

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/pdf/What-Clinicians-Need-to-Know-about-Monkeypox-6-21-2022.pdf>

CDC Consideration for Monkeypox Vaccine

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/considerations-for-monkeypox-vaccination.html>

PA Health Alert Network Messages (General)

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/prep/PA-HAN/Pages/2022-HAN.aspx>

PA Health Alert Network Messages (Monkeypox Guidance)

[https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2022-643-05-20-ADV-Monkeypox\\_Update.pdf](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2022-643-05-20-ADV-Monkeypox_Update.pdf)

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2022-647-06-23-Monkeypox%20Testing.pdf>

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2022-649-07-08-MPX%20testing.pdf>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise Johnson".

Denise Johnson, M.D.  
Acting Secretary and Physician General  
Pennsylvania Department of Health

Dr. Denise Johnson – SECRETARY OF HEALTH

625 Forster Street 8<sup>th</sup> Floor West | Health and Welfare Building | Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120 | 717.787.9857 | [www.health.pa.gov](http://www.health.pa.gov)