



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH

August 29, 2022

Dear Health Care Provider,

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH), Bureau of Epidemiology staff have been actively responding to reports of suspected 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 are a key in the evaluation and treatment for monkeypox cases. PADOH recently updated our guidance regarding testing, treatment, contact identification and vaccine. This updated guidance is available in [PA-HAN-657](#) which is attached to this communication. Highlights from these updates are provided below.

Clinical Presentation

- The clinical presentation of monkeypox has been well described. Monkeypox may start as a febrile illness (prodrome) prior to rash/lesion development or rash/lesion may be the first and only sign.
- Details on clinical presentation can be found in [PA-HAN 647](#) and in the resources section below.
- Co-infections with monkeypox and sexually transmitted infections (STI), and in some cases coinfection with acute HIV, have been widely reported; therefore, it is strongly recommended suspect cases be offered a STD/HIV clinical evaluation to include STD/HIV testing (including syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea, and HIV). It may also be a good opportunity to discuss HIV PrEP strategies with the client.

Testing

- Providers who suspect a patient has signs or symptoms compatible with monkeypox should arrange for specimen collection and testing.
- Several commercial laboratories (i.e., Aegis Science, Labcorp, Mayo Clinic Laboratories, Quest Diagnostics and Sonic Healthcare) and the PADOH Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) are offering testing for monkeypox.
- To ensure timely access to testing, providers do not have to call the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) or their local health department prior to sending specimens to commercial labs.
- Testing will also continue to be available through the PADOH Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) with approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Health or a local health department. Providers do have to call and discuss their case with their local or state health department prior to using the PA DOH lab. Providers might consider using BOL in situations where patients have or are at risk of severe disease, are under/uninsured, or

have confidentiality concerns. Guidance on specimen submission to BOL is available [here](#).

- Specimen collection [guidance](#) is available from the CDC but providers should consult with their laboratory to determine the appropriate materials and methods for collecting monkeypox specimens as laboratory directions are laboratory specific.

Public Health Reporting

Consultations are available from PA DOH, Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, at 717-787-3350 or the local health department should clinicians have specific questions about the evaluation and treatment of monkeypox cases or if clinicians want to obtain testing through BOL. Clinicians do not need to notify PA DOH of suspected or confirmed cases as results from diagnostic labs are sent to PA-NEDSS, Pennsylvania's reportable disease database.

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 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). Additional details on requesting and administering monkeypox treatment can be found in [PA HAN 653](#).

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.
- Anyone with an exposure to people with monkeypox should monitor their health or be monitored for signs or symptoms consistent with monkeypox for 21 days after their last exposure.
- [CDC guidance](#) is available to assist in assessing the risk of individuals with potential exposure and appropriate monitoring of these individual that should occur.

Infection Prevention and Control Guidance

- [Infection prevention and control guidance](#) is available on the management of suspect and confirmed monkeypox cases in the healthcare setting is available.
- Non-healthcare settings such as correctional facilities and homeless shelters should continue to follow [CDC's Preventing Monkeypox Spread in Congregate Settings](#).

Vaccine

- JYNNEOS vaccine remains the preferred vaccine for use in the commonwealth.
 - Jynneos is licensed as a series of two doses administered 28 days (4 weeks) apart.
 - The standard regimen for Jynneos involves a subcutaneous route of administration with an injection volume of 0.5mL which is available for all ages.
 - An alternative regimen may be used for people age ≥ 18 years which involves an intradermal (ID) route of administration with an injection volume of 0.1mL. CDC has noted that intradermal is the preferred route of administration at this time.
 - The second dose of Jynneos vaccine should be given 28 days after the first dose; however, based on available clinical study data and ACIP general best practices, the second dose may be administered up to four days before the minimum interval of 28 days and up to seven days later than the minimum interval or as soon as possible.
 - When necessary, a person aged 18 years or older who received one Jynneos vaccine dose with the standard subcutaneous regimen may receive a second dose with the alternative intradermal regimen at the recommended interval (i.e., 28 days) to complete the vaccination series. For example, a person who received only one dose of the standard regimen before the date of initial Emergency Use Authorization for the alternative regimen (August 9, 2022), may receive one dose with the alternative regimen to complete the series. Also, a person whose 18th birthday occurs between their first and second dose may complete the series with the alternative regimen.
 - More information for providers is available and should be referenced in the [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of JYNNEOS and ACAM2000 Vaccines during the 2022 U.S. Monkeypox Outbreak | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#)
- CDC recommends vaccination for people who have been exposed to monkeypox and people who may be more likely to get monkeypox.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Health (Department) has developed screening criteria for administration of vaccine. If providers have patients who they believe are eligible for vaccination (but are not a current vaccination site), they are encouraged to call (or have their patients call) 877-PAHEALTH for evaluation and referral to a vaccination site.

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/2022-647-06-23-Monkeypox%20Testing.pdf>

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

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2022-653-07-27-TPOXX.pdf>

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2022-657-8-22-UPD-MPX%20update.pdf>

Sincerely,



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Acting Secretary and Physician General
Pennsylvania Department of Health