



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

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Health Alert

Infectious Disease Update

October 14, 2022

The purpose of this health alert is to provide updated guidance around several infectious diseases:

Monkeypox Expansion of JYNNEOS Vaccine Eligibility

- Berkeley in accordance with CDPH guidance is now offering expanded access to the JYNNEOS vaccine. Individuals in the following risk categories are now eligible for vaccination (changes in red):
 - ALL gay, bisexual, and other men, transgender or nonbinary persons who have sex with men, transgender or nonbinary persons
 - **Anyone who is taking or is eligible for HIV PrEP**
 - **Anyone living with HIV, particularly those with a CD4 count <350/mm³, an unsuppressed HIV viral load, or an opportunistic infection**
 - **People who have had any of the following in the past 6 months:**
 - **Sex at a commercial sex venue**
 - **Sex in association with a large public event in a geographic area where monkeypox transmission is occurring**
 - **Sexual partners of people with the above risks**
 - **People who anticipate experiencing the above risks, including individuals with multiple sex partners**
 - 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 MPX
 - Laboratory workers who routinely perform MPX virus testing
 - Clinicians who have had a high-risk occupational exposure (e.g., examined MPX lesions or collected MPX specimens without using recommended personal protective equipment)

Ebola Outbreak in Uganda

- Due to an [outbreak of Ebola](#) virus disease (EVD) in Uganda, the federal government is now funneling passengers who have traveled to Uganda or to select airports for screening on arrival. These airports are: John F. Kennedy Airport in New York, Newark Liberty International Airport in New



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Jersey, O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C. The CDC and CDPH will be alerting the City of Berkeley Health Department to any returning travelers identified through this process and we will be actively monitoring them for development of symptoms. This process may not capture all individuals who have recently traveled to Uganda therefore clinician screening is important.

- Please maintain a high index of suspicion and routinely query patients presenting with acute infectious illnesses on their travel history. Signs and symptoms of EVD include fever, severe headache, myalgia, weakness, fatigue, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, and unexplained bleeding. Clinicians should suspect EVD in patients presenting with these symptoms and travel to Uganda within 21 days of symptom onset.
- If there is suspicion for EVD in a patient based on symptoms and travel to Uganda within the last 21 days, take EVD specific [infection prevention and control precautions](#). Immediately notify the City of Berkeley Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Program if you have a suspect of case of Ebola in a Berkeley resident by calling (510) 981-5292; or after hours, call Berkeley Police dispatch at (510) 981-5911 and ask for the Health Officer on call.

COVID-19 Bivalent Boosters for Pediatric Patients

- On October 13th the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup and CDPH recommended the use of the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 Bivalent Boosters in younger age groups, in accordance with federal authorization by the FDA and recommendations from CDC. The Pfizer COVID-19 bivalent booster is now approved for use in ages 5 and up, and the Moderna COVID-19 bivalent booster is now approved for use in ages 6 and up.
- Providers should stop administering the monovalent vaccine as a booster and begin vaccinating pediatric patients with the bivalent booster. The City of Berkeley Health Department would like to reiterate the important role boosters play in reducing community spread and hospitalizations. All City of Berkeley sponsored vaccination sites will be offering the bivalent booster to eligible children beginning 10/25/22.