



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

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Health Officer

Health Alert

Monkeypox Update
September 12, 2022

Weekly case rates of Monkeypox (MPX) appear to be declining and supply of the JYNNEOS vaccine has increased. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is now recommending that individuals who are eligible receive second doses of the JYNNEOS vaccine. In addition, vaccine eligibility criteria has been expanded in the Bay Area, and there is new guidance related to pediatric testing and vaccination.

Second Doses of JYNNEOS

Availability of the JYNNEOS vaccine has increased as result of larger federal allocations and approval of intradermal adult dosing of the JYNNEOS vaccine. Patients who are eligible to receive the JYNNEOS vaccine should receive a second dose 4 weeks after their first dose, or as soon thereafter as possible. Although a 28-day interval is optimal, there is no need to restart or add doses to the vaccine series if the second dose is given after 28 days. Patients 18 and older who initially received the vaccine subcutaneously may receive their second dose intradermally, unless otherwise contraindicated.

Expanded Eligibility Criteria for JYNNEOS

The following groups are now eligible for vaccination (**change indicated in red**):

- **ALL gay, bisexual, and other men or transgender persons who have sex with men or transgender persons.**
- 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
- Persons who had close contact with others at a venue or event or within a social group within the past 14 days where a suspected or confirmed MPX case was identified. This includes persons who received notice from a venue or event of a potential exposure within the past 14 days
- Laboratory workers who routinely perform MPX virus testing



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- Clinicians who have had a high-risk occupational exposure (e.g., examined MPX lesions or collected MPX specimens without using recommended personal protective equipment)

Pediatric Clinical Guidance and Testing

Common pediatric rashes may be easily confused with MPX. Pediatric cases of MPX remain rare — statewide there have been only 14 confirmed cases. Testing for MPX in pediatric patients should be reserved for patients who lack an alternative diagnosis to explain their symptoms or who have an epidemiologic risk factor for contracting MPX. Providers are required to submit a [Monkeypox Screening Worksheet](#) for all suspected MPX cases to the City of Berkeley Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Program. In addition, for pediatric suspect cases, CDPH is requiring providers to submit samples to the state laboratory for testing and to provide lesion photos with the suspect case report when possible. Providers should reach out to the public health department if they suspect MPX in a pediatric patient by emailing COBCD@cityofberkeley.info or calling (510) 981-5292 during normal business hours.

Minor Consent for Vaccination

MPX is a reportable communicable disease that is spread by close or intimate skin-to-skin contact, including sexual contact. As such, and in order to remove barriers to vaccination, the City of Berkeley Public Health encourages all healthcare providers to implement a minor consent process for JYNNEOS vaccine. The [California Family Code](#) allows minors to consent to medical care in such circumstances (*California Family Code § 6926(a,b)*). **Providers should counsel minor patients that other entities (e.g., schools or parents) may have access to the minor's vaccination record without the minor's explicit consent.**

- Many schools get automatic access to minors' vaccination records through CAIR, which could allow parents to get access to these records through a minor's school.
- **There is an 'opt-out' process in CAIR**, where a minor can lock their vaccination records. Providers should be aware that if a minor chooses the 'opt-out' process, institutions (e.g., schools) will not be allowed to see ANY of the minor's



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vaccination records. **However, the records could still be seen by parents and guardians after the 'opt-out' process.**

- To initiate the 'opt-out' process, minors can follow the instructions under [CAIR Sharing Policy](#).

It is advised that providers consult with their risk management or legal staff if they have questions or concerns about the application of California Family Code and minor consent in their practice.

Reporting Requirements

Report all probable or confirmed MPX cases to COB within 1 working day by submitting a completed [Confidential Morbidity Report](#) (CMR) by fax (510-981-5345) or secure email (COBCD@cityofberkeley.info).

COB also requests a [Monkeypox Screening Worksheet](#) be sent for **all** suspect cases. Please submit the Worksheet to COBCD@cityofberkeley.info.

Resources

[CDPH Health Alert: Title 17 Revisions, Section 2500 update](#)

[CDPH Healthcare Provider Health Advisory: Updated Guidance on Laboratory Testing of Pediatric Patients for Monkeypox \(MPX\) Virus Infection in California](#)

[CDPH MPX Website](#)

[CDPH Prioritizing inventory of JYNNEOS smallpox and monkeypox \(MPX\) vaccine](#)

[City of Berkeley Provider Resources](#)