

**Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)**  
**Alabama Emergency Response Technology (ALERT)**  
**Health Alert Network (HAN)**  
**August 31, 2022**

**Monkeypox Update**

**Situation Update:** The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) reports 69 cases of monkeypox, as of August 31, 2022. ADPH continues to provide guidance and resources to educate, test, treat, and prevent this illness.

The ADPH monkeypox webpage contains information for healthcare providers and the public. As new information emerges, ADPH regularly updates the webpage.

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/monkeypox/healthcare.html>

**Testing:** As a reminder, lesions SHOULD NOT be unroofed or disinfected prior to specimen collection. ADPH encourages providers to sign up for free access to the Bureau of Clinical Laboratories (BCL) portal to order testing and receive results more rapidly.

**For providers with access to the BCL web portal, updated results are released at approximately 6:00 am, 12:00 noon, and 4:00 pm.**

Positive monkeypox lab results will be called to the provider, but negative results will only be mailed, unless the provider has access to the BCL portal. ADPH does not have adequate staff to call negative results.

For more information, including signing up for the BCL lab portal, see below:

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/monkeypox/assets/mpx-specimen-guidance.pdf>

**Treatment:** CDC holds a non research expanded access Investigational New Drug (EA-IND) protocol that allows for the use of tecovirimat (TPOXX) for primary or early empiric treatment of non-variola orthopox virus infections, including monkeypox, in adults and children of all ages. The EA-IND provides an umbrella regulatory coverage so that clinicians and facilities do not need to request and obtain their own INDs. The EA-IND also provides liability coverage under the PREP Act for compensation to patients if seriously injured via the Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program.

ADPH continues to recruit providers who care for higher risk patients to administer TPOXX. Currently, there are twelve groups/entities providing TPOXX in Alabama. (Multiple providers from a group/entity may be listed under the EA-IND, thus representing a larger number of

individual providers.) Not every person who has monkeypox requires treatment, but there are several high-risk conditions in which persons who have monkeypox should be considered for TPOXX. It is important to plan for patients who may need treatment before actual diagnosis.

Criteria for TPOXX treatment and access are in the link below:

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

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/obtaining-tecovirimat.html>

For more information regarding ordering TPOXX, please contact Dr. Burnestine Taylor at (334) 206-5971 or (800) 338-8374.

**Prevention:** In addition to education for persons to reduce the risk of monkeypox, ADPH continues to promote the use of Jynneos vaccine. ADPH has expanded and simplified eligibility for Jynneos to reach as many higher risk persons as vaccine supply allows. ADPH is also transitioning to use of intradermal Jynneos in persons ages 18 years and above, to extend vaccine supply. Persons who have received subcutaneous Jynneos can receive their second dose as intradermal.

Selected county health departments in Alabama have Jynneos in stock, but all local county health departments can provide information about appointments and administer vaccine if persons cannot travel to selected counties. ADPH continues to recruit providers who manage higher risk patients. See basic criteria for Jynneos below:

**Adults 18 and older may be eligible if:**

- They have been notified or are aware of close, intimate, or sexual contact with someone diagnosed with monkeypox OR
- They identify as gay, bisexual, men with same sex partners, or as transgender men and report having multiple or anonymous sex partners or having attended an event or venue where monkeypox may have been transmitted (by sex or skin-to-skin contact) OR
- They are deemed at higher risk for monkeypox infections by the managing clinician or other factors.

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/monkeypox/assets/mpx-vaccine-flyer.pdf>

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/monkeypox/vaccine.html>

**Persons under 18 years of age** can receive Jynneos subcutaneously under FDA EUA effective August 9, 2022. For more information see link below:

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/interim-considerations/jynneos-vaccine.html>

**For additional questions related to monkeypox**, clinicians may call ADPH's Infectious Diseases & Outbreaks Division (ID&O) at (334) 206-5971 or (800) 338-8374 during normal business hours. For urgent matters after hours, please call the same numbers and follow the prompts to be connected to an ID&O duty officer.