

Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)
Alabama Emergency Response Technology (ALERT)
Health Alert Network (HAN)
October 4, 2022
Monkeypox Update

Situation Update: The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) reports over 131 cases of monkeypox, as of September 30, 2022. ADPH continues to provide guidance and resources to educate, test, treat, and prevent this illness. The ADPH monkeypox webpage continues to update with information for healthcare providers and the public, including weekly data updates. See links below:

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

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

CDC noted, in a recent HAN, that severe manifestations of monkeypox have been observed in the current outbreak in the United States. Of significant concern is that persons who are immunocompromised, due to HIV or other conditions, are at greater risk for severe manifestations. Thus, it is important that the HIV status of all sexually active adults and adolescents with suspected or confirmed monkeypox be determined. There are diagnostic and clinical management strategies that may help address severe manifestations of this virus. Please review the CDC HAN concerning severe monkeypox disease in the link below:

<https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2022/han00475.asp>

Testing: Monkeypox testing continues to be available through the ADPH Bureau of Clinical Laboratories (BCL) at no charge to the patient. Please visit the link below for information regarding submission of specimens to the BCL. Providers can sign up for free access to the BCL web portal to order testing and receive results more rapidly. ADPH staff will call positive monkeypox results, for BCL specimens, to the provider but cannot call negative results, due to staff shortage. Negative monkeypox lab results will be provided by regular mail. Again, if a provider has portal access, they can view their patients' specimen results, positive or negative as soon as the results are posted. Updated laboratory results are released through the BCL web portal at approximately 6:00 am, 12:00 noon, and 4:00 pm. A number of private and clinical laboratories now offer monkeypox testing if providers prefer to use those laboratories.

See link below for testing through BCL and be reminded that BCL advises providers **not to unroof or disinfect the site** before collecting the specimen.

<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 14 entities providing TPOXX in Alabama. (Multiple providers from a group/entity may be listed under the EA-IND, thus representing a larger number of providers.) CDC recently released an MMWR with updated criteria for use of TPOXX and updated information regarding pain management for patients with monkeypox.

It is important to plan for patient treatment before diagnosis. For information regarding ordering TPOXX, please contact Dr. Burnestine Taylor at (334) 206-5971 or (800) 338-8374. Criteria for TPOXX treatment and access to the product are in the links below:

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

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7137e1.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/pain-management.html>

Prevention: In addition to education for persons to reduce the risk of monkeypox, ADPH continues to promote the use of Jynneos vaccine. ADPH continues to update criteria to reach as many high-risk persons as vaccine supply allows. ADPH provides intradermal Jynneos, but allows subcutaneous administration, based upon patient criteria and preference. Either intradermal or subcutaneous route of administration is acceptable in persons 18 years of age and older for first dose, second dose, or both doses.

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 vaccine providers who manage higher risk patients.

Adults 18 and older may be eligible for Jynneos as noted below:

Post exposure eligibility: Persons notified of exposure to monkeypox or aware of close, intimate, or sexual contact with someone diagnosed with monkeypox are eligible for Jynneos.

Pre exposure eligibility:

- Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, transgender or nonbinary people who in the past 6 months have had:
 - A new diagnosis of one or more nationally reportable sexually transmitted diseases (i.e., acute HIV, chancroid, chlamydia, gonorrhea, or syphilis)

- More than one sex partner
- 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
- People who are deemed at higher risk for monkeypox infections by the managing clinician or other factors

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

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

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

Persons under 18 years of age are eligible for Jynneos based upon the same criteria listed above and can receive Jynneos subcutaneously, as authorized by FDA EUA, effective August 9, 2022. For more information regarding persons less than 18 years of age, see links below:

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

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