



## Chester County Health Department Monkeypox (MPX)

### Info for Healthcare Providers

---

08/11/2022

Sent by: Health Director and Public Health Physician.

Sent to: Healthcare providers of all types, FQHCs, free clinics, Health Care Connect, etc.

Greetings Healthcare Providers,

It is hard to believe we are embarking upon yet another emerging contagious disease – monkeypox – despite still recovering from several years of battling COVID-19. I want to share some key information with you and ask that you share it with your staff. Before that, I want to acknowledge that this email is long so appreciate you taking the time to read it.

The Chester County Health Department has activated its Monkeypox Health Operations Center (HOC). We are focused on several concurrent priorities some of which include testing, vaccination and antivirals that I thought would be important to share with you.

#### Testing:

- Healthcare providers can use commercial labs such as Labcorp and Quest to submit specimens for testing for individuals that have health insurance. As with any test, contact the commercial lab for their collection requirements.
- Healthcare providers serving uninsured individuals, please see the attached for more information. You can request the use of the PA Bureau of Laboratories (PA BOL) for testing through the Health Department. Healthcare providers will be responsible for getting specimens delivered to the PA BOL.
- The Health Department is currently not conducting routine public testing. We have prioritized our testing for individuals without health insurance AND without a medical home.
- Please do not send patients to hospital emergency departments for testing. If you cannot collect a specimen, referring patients to an urgent care would be appropriate.
- Providers do NOT need to report positive test results/cases to the Health Department. The Health Department will have access to all lab results .
- Please see the following:
  - [CDC Preparation and Collection of Specimens](#)
  - PA Health Alert 649: [The Addition of Commercial Labs for Monkeypox Virus Testing.](#)

#### Treatment:

- Currently there is no treatment approved specifically for monkeypox virus infections. CDC holds an expanded access protocol (sometimes called “compassionate use”) that allows for the use of stockpiled tecovirimat (TPOXX) to treat monkeypox during an outbreak.
- TPOXX is accessible to clinicians, care facilities, and hospitals through a request to PA Department of Health’s Bureau of Epidemiology at 717-787-3350. Given the need for patient monitoring and completion of the Emergency Authorization Investigational New Drug (EA-IND) application, requests for TPOXX must come from a healthcare provider.
- The Health Department is not planning to dispense TPOXX however will make referrals as needed.
- Please see the following:



## Chester County Health Department Monkeypox (MPX)

### Info for Healthcare Providers

08/11/2022

- PA Health Alert 653: [Revised Protocols Regarding the Use of Tecovirimat \(TPOXX\) for the Treatment of Monkeypox](#)
- [FDA EA-IND Form 1572](#).

#### Vaccination:

- The supply of JYNNEOS is limited and being allocated by PA Department of Health using a hub-and-spoke model.
- The Chester County Health Department has been allocated a limited supply.
- With limited supply, the PA Department of Health has prioritized the JYNNEOS utilization for post exposure prophylaxis (PEP), but also maximizing the impact of vaccine for expanded PEP (also referred to as PEP++) and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).
- JYNNEOS is currently being prioritized in the following groups:
  - Those with a high or intermediate degree of exposure to a confirmed case of monkeypox within the last 14 days.
  - High and intermediate degree of exposure characteristics include:
    - Unprotected contact between a person's skin or mucous membranes and the skin, lesions, or bodily fluids from a patient (e.g., any sexual contact, inadvertent splashes of patient saliva to the eyes or oral cavity of a person, ungloved contact with patient), or contaminated materials (e.g., linens, clothing) **OR**
    - Being inside the patient's room or within 6 feet of a patient during any procedures that may create aerosols from oral secretions, skin lesions, or resuspension of dried exudates (e.g., shaking of soiled linens), without wearing an N95 or equivalent respirator (or higher) and eye protection **OR**
    - Exposure that, at the discretion of public health authorities, was recategorized to this risk level (i.e., exposure that ordinarily would be considered a lower risk exposure, raised to this risk level because of unique circumstances).
    - For more information on vaccine eligibility please visit: [PA DOH Monkeypox Vaccine Provider Information Sheet](#).
- Healthcare providers who identify patients with a need for vaccine should contact the Health Department at 610-344-6225 and press the option that includes monkeypox. We encourage you to use the PA Department of Health's Monkeypox PEP Vaccine Assessment tool (see attached) within your practice to assess "eligibility" for vaccine.
- As vaccine supply increases, JYNNEOS will be prioritized for additional characteristics and pre-exposure prophylaxis use (PrEP) and be made accessible to clinicians.
- In the meantime, the FDA has issued an [Emergency Use Authorization](#) to address some of the limited supply.

Our recent experience with COVID-19 and our historical experience with the HIV/AIDS crisis put to the importance of ensuring stigma is avoided. Although anyone can get infected, the current outbreak has largely affected men who have sex with other men. How we communicate and care for those affected must not inadvertently lead to blame for the spread of the virus or lead to a feeling of being condemned for a lifestyle. Here are some tips we have found helpful:



**Chester County Health Department  
Monkeypox (MPX)**

---

**Info for Healthcare Providers**

08/11/2022

- Be honest but avoid overemphasizing one group's risk over another; overemphasizing cases among men having sex with men may inadvertently stigmatize this population and create a false sense of safety among those who are not gay and bisexual men.
- Although it is important to stress the seriousness of the virus, it's equally crucial to underscore that testing and vaccines exist, unlike during the HIV/AIDS crisis.
- Avoid use of fear-based communications.
- Ensure communications remain fact-based.
- Promoting abstinence-only is not effective.
- Other resources include:
  - [CDC Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication](#)

The information shared above is current as of this message! Information and guidance for monkeypox is rapidly changing and expanding every week. As such, our response remains fluid, and we encourage you to remain up-to-date through [CDC's](#), [PA Department of Health's](#) and the [Chester County Health Department's](#) websites, and stay tuned for future Health Alerts.

Should you have further questions, please direct them to the Chester County Health Department's Health Operation Center at [healthoperationscenter@chesco.org](mailto:healthoperationscenter@chesco.org).

Thank you,  
Jeanne & Dr. Kramer

Attachments:

[MPX Testing for Uninsured Providers 8.10.2022](#)

[MPX PEP Vaccine Assessment Providers 8.10.2022](#)