

Provider Health Advisory
May 23, 2022
**Monkeypox Virus Infection in the United States and
Other Non-endemic Countries—2022**

Summary:

There is a confirmed case of monkeypox infection in an adult male residing in Massachusetts with travel to Canada. Multiple clusters of confirmed cases in other countries have also been reported. Many of the cases have involved men who have sex with men (MSM) although not exclusively and the majority do not have a history of travel to a monkeypox-endemic country.

Healthcare providers should be alert for patients who have rash illness [consistent with monkeypox \(www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/clinical-recognition.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/clinical-recognition.html), regardless of whether they have travel or specific risk factors for monkeypox and regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

Monkeypox remains an extremely rare diagnosis. Other more common causes of rash should be considered first when evaluating patients with rash.

Actions Requested of Healthcare Professionals:

- 1. REPORT immediately** all patients who meet the current suspected monkeypox infection case definition (below) to **Contra Costa Public Health (925-313-6740 during business hours or 925-646-2441 after hours for Sheriff's Dispatch to connect with the Health Officer on-call)**.
 - Suspected case: Patient with an unexplained rash (that is unlikely to be secondary syphilis, herpes, chancroid, varicella zoster, molluscum contagiosum, etc.) that is consistent with monkeypox (firm, well circumscribed, deep-seated, and umbilicated lesions; progresses from macules to papules to vesicles to pustules to scabs), especially a patient who:
 - i. Reports close contact with a person or people with confirmed or suspected monkeypox and/or with a similar rash; and/or
 - ii. Has recent travel history to an area where confirmed monkeypox has been reported; and/or
 - iii. Is a MSM
- 2. IMPLEMENT** infection control as soon as possible
 - **Patients presenting with suspected monkeypox** should be placed promptly in a single-person exam room with door closed or an airborne isolation room, if available. The patient should remain masked and any exposed skin lesions covered with a sheet or gown.
 - **Healthcare workers evaluating patients with suspected monkeypox** should wear the following: gloves, gown, eye protection (goggles or faceshield), and a N95 or equivalent or higher-level respirator. PPE should be donned before entering patient's room. Remove gloves, gown, and eye protection and perform hand hygiene prior to leaving the room. Remove and



Actions Requested of Healthcare Professionals (continued):

discard the N95 after leaving the room and closing the door. Replace with a mask.

- **Environmental surfaces** should be cleaned and disinfected with an EPA-registered disinfectant.
- 3. CONSULT** with Contra Costa Public Health to discuss testing and isolation. Patients with monkeypox high on the differential diagnosis after consultation with Contra Costa Public Health may need testing through the California Department of Public Health. Contra Costa Public Health will provide guidance on specimen collection and submission but key steps are:
- Vigorously swab or brush lesion with two separate sterile dry polyester or Dacron swabs
 - Break off end of applicator of each swab into a sterile 1.5- or 2-mL screw-capped tube with O-ring or place each entire swab in a separate sterile, dry container--**do not add or store swabs in viral or universal transport media.**



Monkeypox lesions (www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/clinical-recognition.html)

Additional Resources:

- CDC Health Alert: emergency.cdc.gov/han/2022/pdf/CDC_HAN_466.pdf
- CDC 2022 United States Monkeypox Case: [2022 United States Monkeypox Case | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC \(www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/outbreak/current.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/outbreak/current.html)
- CDC Clinical recognition of Monkeypox: [Clinical Recognition | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC \(www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/clinical-recognition.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/clinical-recognition.html)
- CDC Monkeypox: [Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC \(www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html)
- CDC Infection control for Hospitals: [Infection Control: Hospital | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC \(www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/infection-control-home.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/infection-control-home.html)
- Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security: [Monkeypox \(www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/publications/monkeypox/\)](https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/publications/monkeypox/)

