

NEW MEXICO HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) ALERT Monkeypox (mpox) Updates for Clinicians

December 5, 2024

Background: On November 15, 2024, the California Department of Public Health confirmed the first reported case of clade I mpox in the United States. The individual, who sought medical care for mpox symptoms in San Mateo County, had recently traveled to areas in Eastern Africa experiencing clade I mpox transmission.

Consistent with recent travel-associated clade I mpox cases in other countries, the patient has relatively mild illness and is recovering. CDC and the local and state health departments are tracing the individual's potential contacts; no additional cases in the United States have been detected as of December 5, 2024. A [Health Alert Network \(HAN\) Health Advisory](#) was issued on November 18, 2024, that included recommendations for clinicians and public health practitioners for mpox clinical recognition, diagnosis, testing, prevention, and surveillance.

Given the ongoing global outbreaks of clade I and clade II mpox, we are sharing CDC's current recommendations to help inform clinical practice for patients at risk for mpox, those with symptoms consistent with mpox, and patients traveling to areas in Africa that are experiencing sustained clade I mpox transmission, including eligibility for mpox vaccine. The risk to the general population of the United States posed by the clade I mpox outbreak remains low.

Report all suspected mpox cases to the New Mexico Department of Health by calling 1-833-796-8773

Recommendations for Clinicians:

1. Discuss mpox [prevention and risk reduction strategies](#) with all your patients at higher risk of mpox infection and those traveling to [countries](#) with ongoing human-to-human transmission of clade I mpox.
2. Take a comprehensive [sexual health history](#) and discuss your patient's travel plans, including if your patient anticipates any sexual or direct skin-to-skin contact (e.g., hugging, kissing, massage) with individuals in areas with ongoing mpox clade I transmission.
3. Recommend vaccination with the [2-dose JYNNEOS vaccine series](#) to any adult, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, if they are traveling to a country where clade I mpox is spreading between people AND they anticipate experiencing any of the following:
 - a. Sex with a new partner
 - b. Sex at a commercial sex venue, like a sex club or bathhouse
 - c. Sex in exchange for money, goods, drugs, or other trade
 - d. Sex in association with a large public event, such as a rave, party or festival

In addition, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends the 2-dose JYNNEOS series for people aged 18 years and older with the following risks:

- a. Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, transgender or nonbinary people who in the past 6 months have had **one** of the following: a new diagnosis of ≥ 1 sexually transmitted disease; more than one sex partner; sex at a commercial sex venue; or sex in association with a large public event in a geographic area where mpox transmission is occurring.
- b. Sexual partners of people with the risks described above
- c. People who anticipate experiencing any of the above

Currently, CDC does not recommend routine immunization against mpox for the general public. JYNNEOS is not recommended as a routine vaccination for healthcare personnel unless sexual risk factors are present. CDC does not recommend that people who have previously been infected with mpox receive mpox vaccination.

JYNNEOS is now available in [retail pharmacies](#) and covered by Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance for those at risk. For more information about paying for the mpox vaccine, review CDC's mpox [vaccine coverage fact sheet](#). The NMDOH nurse helpline, 1-833-796-8773 can assist patients with locating a vaccine provider in New Mexico.

4. Because there are several travel-related cases of clade I mpox around the world and an ongoing global outbreak of clade II mpox, consider mpox as a possible diagnosis in patients with [epidemiologic characteristics](#) and [lesions or other clinical signs and symptoms](#) consistent with mpox. Early symptoms may include fever, malaise, headache, sore throat, or cough, and (in many cases) swollen lymph nodes. Lymphadenopathy is a characteristic feature of mpox, and lymph nodes may swell in the neck (submandibular & cervical), armpits (axillary), or groin (inguinal) and can occur on both sides of the body or just one. People with mpox infection develop lesions that typically progress from macules to papules, vesicles, pustules, and then scabs. Many recent clade II mpox cases have presented without early symptoms and have only localized lesions rather than a diffuse rash.
5. Advise all patients suspected of having mpox to stay at home and isolate themselves from others until mpox has been ruled out by laboratory testing. In the event of a positive mpox diagnosis, advise patients to isolate until their mpox lesions have cleared up and fresh skin has formed, which could take several weeks.

Additional Resources:

CDC has [resources](#) to support the diagnosis and management of patients with mpox, including information on [clinical features](#) of mpox, [diagnostic tests](#), [case reporting](#), [treatment options](#), and prevention and infection control [guidance for healthcare settings](#). In the ongoing clade II mpox outbreak, HIV infection and other STIs are highly prevalent among people with mpox. People with immunocompromise (e.g., from advanced HIV) are at risk for severe manifestations of mpox; there is [treatment guidance specific to persons with, or at risk for, severe manifestations of mpox](#). All sexually active adults and adolescents in whom mpox is suspected should be evaluated for HIV and other STIs,

including syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia, and provided with appropriate care and prevention information.

New Mexico Health Alert Network: To register for the NM Health Alert Network, please visit the following site <https://nm.readyop.com/fs/4cjZ/10b2> Please fill out the registration form completely and click Submit at the bottom of the page, to begin receiving Important health alerts, advisories, and updates.

Please Note that our system also utilizes text messaging to notify members of important health information. Due to FCC Regulation changes that are designed to decrease the amount of unwanted spam text messages sent each year to citizens, please save, this phone number **(855) 596-1810** as the “**New Mexico Health Alert Network**” default phone number for your account used for text messages on the mobile device(s) you register with us.