

## MONKEYPOX HEALTH ALERT July 7, 2022

### Situational Update

Since mid-May, cases of monkeypox have been reported from several countries that are non-endemic for this rare disease, including the United States. As of July 5<sup>th</sup>, a total of 111 cases have been reported in [California](#) with 8 in [Sacramento County](#). While monkeypox can infect anyone, many of the recent cases in 2022 have occurred among persons self-identifying as men who have sex with men (MSM).

### Expanded Monkeypox Vaccination Criteria

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) announced an expansion of its vaccine response to reach people at high-risk of monkeypox. Sacramento County has also expanded the monkeypox vaccination criteria as follows:

- MSM who have sex with men and/or transgender individuals who meet at least one of the following criteria:
  - Have tested positive for sexually transmitted infections in the past 2 months
  - Had 2 or more sexual partners in the last 3 weeks
  - Attended or work at a commercial sex venue in the 3 weeks
  - Had anonymous sex in the last 3 weeks
  - Engaged in transactional sex (sex work) in the last 3 weeks

Health care providers can request a minimum of 20 doses of the JYNNEOS vaccine from Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) [Immunization Assistance Program](#) (IAP) to vaccinate high-risk individuals. Alternatively, health care providers can direct these individuals to SCPH IAP for vaccination.

### Commercial Laboratory Monkeypox Testing

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, [Labcorp](#) began testing for monkeypox using the Center for Disease and Control's orthopoxvirus test. [Additional](#) commercial laboratories will be able to perform this test soon. Therefore, prior authorization for monkeypox testing from SCPH will no longer be needed.

### Specimen Collection, Storage, and Shipping:

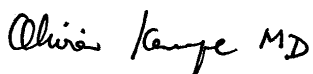
- Collect a minimum of 2 samples from lesions, sampling lesions from different body sites. Vigorously swab or brush lesions with 2 separate sterile dry swabs, break off swabs into separate 1.5 or 2 mL screw-capped tubes with O-rings, or place each entire swab in separate sterile container. DO NOT add or store in viral or universal transport media.
- Store all specimens at 4°C if shipping within 24-72 hours. Store at -80°C if shipping will be delayed.
- Ship all specimens on cold pack (2-8 °C) or dry ice within 24-72 hours.

**Report** any suspect cases immediately by phone to SCPH at (916) 875-5581.

### Resources:

1. U.S. Monkeypox 2022: Situational Summary (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/index.html>
2. Monkeypox (CDPH): <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Monkeypox.aspx>
3. Monkeypox (SCPH): <https://dhs.saccounty.gov/PUB/Pages/Communicable-Disease-Control/Monkeypox.aspx>

Sincerely,



Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS  
Public Health Officer