MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) - Update

MESSAGE ID:	**MSHAN-20220804-00584-UPD (Health Update)**
RECIPIENTS:	**All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, PAs, and Healthcare Providers – Statewide**
	Thursday, August 4, 2022
SUBJECT:	**Monkeypox Update**

Dear Colleagues,

Key Messages

- **Several cases of monkeypox have been identified in Mississippi, and additional cases are expected in the coming days to weeks.**
- **Monkeypox testing is available at several commercial laboratories and the Mississippi Public Health Laboratory.**
  - **Prior notification of MSDH *is* required to submit samples to the Mississippi Public Health Laboratory (call the MSDH Office of Epidemiology at 601-576-7725 or 601-576-7400 after hours).**
  - **Prior notification of MSDH *is not* required for monkeypox testing if the provider is submitting to a commercial laboratory.**
- **A positive monkeypox or orthopox test *is* immediately reportable to the MSDH Office of Epidemiology.**
  - **Reporting of monkeypox suspects to MSDH *is not* required unless the provider is requesting testing at the MPHL.**
- **Limited doses of Jynneos monkeypox vaccine are available in Mississippi, with priority vaccination of known contacts identified through MSDH contact tracing. Expanded post-exposure vaccination will soon be available for those with presumed contact to monkeypox—MSDH will provide further details regarding eligibility, locations, and appointments within the coming days.**
- **Treatment with the antiviral Tecovirimat (TPOXX) may be indicated for individuals with severe disease or at risk of severe disease including those who are hospitalized with severe disease, those with severe pain, children less than 8 years, those with immunosuppression (e.g., HIV/AIDS, malignancy, etc.), pregnancy or a history of eczema or atopic dermatitis, among other conditions. Healthcare providers should contact the MSDH Office of Epidemiology to request TPOXX.**
- **See the full Update for more specific information and guidance from the Mississippi State Department of Health.**

Introduction

- Monkeypox infections continue to be identified in the US with increasing frequency, with local transmission now identified in many US states. Over 6,000 cases have been identified in the US as of August 2, 2022 (2022 U.S. Map & Case Count | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC).
- On July 25, 2022, Mississippi reported the first identified case of monkeypox in Mississippi.

- As of August 2, 2022, Mississippi is reporting four cases of monkeypox in Mississippi residents. Additional cases and local transmission of monkeypox are expected.
- Transmission of monkeypox is through direct person to person contact with the infectious rash, lesions or exudates from the lesions, prolonged contact with respiratory secretions or contact with objects contaminated with infectious fluids (linens, towels, etc.).
- While anyone who has close contact with a person who has monkeypox can become infected, **the current outbreak is largely affecting gay, bisexual, transgender or other men who have sex with men.**
- The incubation period is 1-2 weeks with an initial prodrome (e.g., fever, malaise) followed by rash that can progress through macular, popular, vesicular to pustular lesions. Associated lymphadenopathy is often a distinguishing feature. Prodrome is not always present.

Testing Considerations and Reporting

- Who to test: Consider monkeypox testing in patients who
    - Have a rash consistent with monkeypox (see Clinical Recognition | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC), **OR**
    - Have a new rash/illness onset and fall into one of the currently identified higher risk groups (Case Definitions† for Use in the 2022 Monkeypox Response | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC
    - See infection control guidance for managing patients in a healthcare setting Infection Control: Healthcare Settings | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC
- **Isolation:** Individuals who are tested for monkeypox should be advised to immediately isolate at home using the following guidelines: Isolation and Infection Control: Home | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC . They should remain isolated until test results are available, and if positive, should remain isolated until the rash has fully resolved, the scabs have fallen off, and a fresh layer of intact skin has formed.
- PCR testing for monkeypox is available at the Mississippi Public Health Laboratory (MPHL)
- **Prior notification to the MSDH Office of Epidemiology is required for submission of monkeypox specimens to the MPHL for testing.** Call the Office of Epidemiology at 601-576-7725 (or 601-576-7400 after hours and weekends) to submit samples to the MPHL.
- See 19225.pdf (ms.gov) for full collection and submission guidelines to submit to MPHL. Samples submitted to MPHL (two per site sampled) must be collected on a Dacron or polyester (not cotton) swab and placed dry in a sterile container. Samples should not be placed in viral transport media for testing at MPHL.
- PCR testing for monkeypox is also available at several commercial laboratories: Aegis Science, Mayo Clinic Laboratories, LabCorp, Sonic Healthcare (AEL) and Quest Diagnostics.
- If submitting samples to a commercial laboratory, you must check with that lab regarding collection and submission instructions.
- Providers are not required to notify MSDH when submitting samples for monkeypox testing to a commercial or reference laboratory and are not required to report monkeypox suspects to MSDH unless requesting testing at the MPHL.
- Any positive orthopox or monkeypox test result is immediately notifiable to the MSDH Office of Epidemiology at 601-576-7725 (601-576-7400 after hours).

Vaccine

- Mississippi has received very limited doses of Jynneos monkeypox vaccine to date.
- Additional doses are expected, but the limited quantities are currently prioritized as post-exposure prophylaxis to known high risk contacts to monkeypox identified through MSDH contact tracing efforts.
- However, both nationally and in Mississippi to date, cases are frequently reporting anonymous contacts or contacts who cannot be readily identified for consideration of postexposure prophylaxis with vaccine through contact investigation.
- MSDH is planning to offer expanded post-exposure prophylaxis for individuals with presumed contact to monkeypox in selected county health departments. **Additional details, including locations, scheduling and eligibility criteria will be provided soon.**

Treatment

- Tecovirimat (also known as TPOXX or ST-246) is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treating human smallpox disease caused by *Variola virus* in adults and children and is available for use for monkeypox through an expanded access Investigational New Drug protocol (EA-IND).
- The type of monkeypox seen in this outbreak is rarely fatal, and more than 99% of people who get this form of the disease are likely to survive. Most infections last 2-4 weeks and resolve without specific treatment.
- However, some groups are likely at higher risk of severe illness, including children under age 8, people who have weakened immune systems or are pregnant, and people with history of atopic dermatitis or eczema.
- Treatment may be indicated for individuals with severe disease or at risk of severe disease including those who are hospitalized with severe disease, those with severe pain, children less than 8 years, those with immunosuppression (e.g., HIV/AIDS, malignancy, etc.), pregnancy or a history of eczema or atopic dermatitis, among other conditions.
- See Guidance for Tecovirimat Use Under Expanded Access Investigational New Drug Protocol during 2022 U.S. Monkeypox Cases | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC
- To request tecovirimat for use in a patient with suspected, probable, or confirmed monkeypox, contact the MSDH Office of Epidemiology at 601-576-7725.

Recent Monkeypox Health Alert Messages from CDC

- Update for Clinicians on Monkeypox in People with HIV, Children and Adolescents, and People who are Pregnant or Breastfeeding HAN Archive - 00472 | Health Alert Network (HAN) (cdc.gov)
- Update for Clinicians on Testing and Treatment for Monkeypox HAN Archive - 00471 | Health Alert Network (HAN) (cdc.gov)

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist

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Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program:	**MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)**
Message Identifier:	MSHAN-20220804-00584-**UPD**
Program (HAN) Type:	**Health Alert**
Status (Type):	Actual ()
Message Type:	Alert
Reference:	MSHAN-00584
Severity:	Unknown
Acknowledgement:	No
Sensitive:	Not Sensitive
Message Expiration:	Undetermined
Urgency:	Undetermined
Delivery Time:	600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT **(ALT=Health Alert, ADV=Health Advisory, UPD=Health Update, MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**).

Program (HAN) Type: Categories of Health Alert Messages**.**

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Health Info Service: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

Status (Type):

Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded

Message Type:

Alert:	Indicates an original Alert
Update:	Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel:	Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error:	Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme:	Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe:	Significant threat to life or property
Moderate:	Possible threat to life or property
Minor:	Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown:	Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive:	Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive:	Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).