

MONKEYPOX HEALTH ALERT

June 2, 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 May 31st, a total of 18 cases have been confirmed by [CDC](#) in nine states.

Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) has identified a cluster of three monkeypox cases among residents of Sacramento County, which have been confirmed by CDC. These cases are close contacts. SCPH continues to work on identifying and monitoring contacts of cases to prevent further transmission.

Actions Requested of Health Care Systems and Clinicians:

1. **Isolate** patient suspected of monkeypox in single-person exam room or airborne precaution isolation room, if available, as soon as possible. Ensure patient remains masked, if tolerable, and cover any exposed skin lesions with gown or sheet. Health care personnel evaluating patient should wear gloves, gown, eye protection, and N95 or equivalent or higher-level respirator.
2. **Report** any suspect cases **immediately** by phone to SCPH at (916) 875-5881. Inquiries to determine if specimens need to be collected for testing should be made during normal work hours only (Monday thru Friday from 8 am to 5 pm).
3. **Collect*** multiple samples for preliminary and confirmatory testing as follows: 1) vigorously swab or brush lesion with two separate sterile dry polyester or Dacron swabs, 2) 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 container. Do not add or store in viral or universal transport media. Refrigerate specimen when awaiting transport. **SCPH will provide instructions on where to send specimens if approved for testing.**
4. **Take** pictures of the lesions/rash and provide to SCPH if requested.
5. **Manage and treat** with supportive care and symptom control. Antiviral treatment and prophylaxis are available. Coordinate with SCPH.

*Monkeypox is a rare disease. When evaluating patients with rash, also consider other common causes, such as herpes, molluscum contagiosum, syphilis, varicella zoster, etc.

Case Definition (CDPH): Confirmed case – patient with monkeypox virus detected from a clinical sample; Probable case – patient with orthopox virus detected from a clinical sample; Suspect case – patient with an unexplained rash (unlikely to be secondary syphilis, herpes, varicella, molluscum contagiosum, or other diagnosis) 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 in patients who 1) report close contact with a person or people with confirmed or suspected monkeypox and/or with a similar rash; and/or 2) report travel in the past month to an area where confirmed cases have been reported; and/or 3) is an MSM.

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>

Sincerely,



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Public Health Officer