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HEALTH ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 22, 2021

CDCHAN-00446

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Title: Potential Exposure to Person with Confirmed Human Monkeypox Infection — United States, 2021

Dear colleagues,

On Friday, July 16, 2021, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notified state and local health departments that, in collaboration with the Texas Department of State Health Services, they were conducting an investigation into a patient with laboratory-confirmed monkeypox who had recently traveled from Nigeria to the U.S. while symptomatic. The patient was on two flights, from Lagos, Nigeria to Atlanta, Georgia on July 8-9, then from Atlanta to Dallas, Texas on July 9. Since July 16, the CDC has been requesting that state health departments with residents who had traveled on those same flights to contact each traveler, perform a risk assessment, and begin active monitoring if indicated. Some of these travelers are residents of California, and CDPH has notified involved local health departments (LHDs) of travelers thought to be residents of their jurisdictions and is working with these LHDs to perform the requested assessments. Not all travelers have been reached, and it is possible that some may be residents of another jurisdiction. If additional travelers are identified or if another LHD is involved, the involved LHD(s) will be notified immediately. CDPH will provide the CDC with a daily summary of travelers being monitored by the LHDs.

Monkeypox is in the *Orthopoxvirus* genus which also includes smallpox (variola virus). Animal-to-human and human-to-human transmission can occur and is primarily through respiratory droplets, but the virus

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 Information: Provides general health information which is not considered to be of emergent nature



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can enter the body through broken skin, respiratory tract, and mucous membranes. Human monkeypox infections have only been documented outside of Africa six times including a large outbreak in the US in 2003 (with 47 cases). The patient from Texas is the first known such case in the U.S. since 2003. Monkeypox begins with fever, headache, muscle aches, and exhaustion; and can cause swelling of lymph nodes. Within 1-3 days and after fever, patients develop a rash that starts on the face and spreads from there. The incubation period is 7-14 days but can range from 5 to 21 days. Typical illnesses last 2-4 weeks. In Africa, one in 10 persons with monkeypox have died. There is no known safe treatment for monkeypox. For outbreaks, smallpox vaccine, antivirals, and vaccinia immune globulin (VIG) have been used. Vaccines after exposure are most effective within 4 days after exposure and if given after that (and before 14 days) may reduce symptoms but not disease.

Please see attached HAN for additional details.

Please contact Dr. Marisa Donnelly, EISO (Marisa.Donnely@cdph.ca.gov), or myself with any questions.

[About Monkeypox](#) | [Monkeypox](#) | [Poxvirus](#) | [CDC](#)

[CDC and Texas Confirm Monkeypox In U.S. Traveler](#) | [CDC Online Newsroom](#) | [CDC](#)

Best regards

Amanda

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