



Health Advisory

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Monkeypox Infections in the United States including California

Situational Update

The Madera County Department of Public Health (the Department) is working to provide information on the rapidly evolving monkeypox situation. This *Advisory* is to inform local health care providers regarding the status of monkeypox infections in the United States as more cases have been identified, with the first California case being confirmed on May 26, 2022. Key information on how to evaluate persons with possible monkeypox and guidance for local healthcare providers regarding how to notify and coordinate specimen collection with available public health laboratory systems is presented below.

UPDATES AND MODIFICATIONS TO THE BELOW GUIDANCE WILL BE PROVIDED AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

Actions Requested of Clinicians

- *Consider monkeypox in the diagnosis for patients presenting with flu-like symptoms lasting several days, followed by a distinctive rash.*
- *Health care providers should notify their Local Health Department (LHD) immediately of any possible cases of monkeypox; for Madera County residing patients - call (559) 675-7893 to report a possible case and for instructions on monkeypox testing.*
- *When evaluating a patient that you suspect may have monkeypox infection, please consider the following:*
 1. *Suggestive history includes*
 - recent travel to Central or West African countries or other areas reporting monkeypox cases; and/or
 - contact with a person or people who have a similar appearing rash or who received a diagnosis of confirmed or probable monkeypox and/or
 - is a man who regularly has intimate in-person contact with other men

2. Physical exam

- The rash associated with monkeypox involves vesicles or pustules that are deep-seated, firm or hard, and well-circumscribed; the lesions may umbilicate or become confluent and progress over time to scabs.



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- The rash associated with monkeypox can be confused with other diseases that are encountered in clinical practice, especially in the genital or perianal areas (e.g., secondary syphilis, herpes, chancroid, molluscum contagiosum, and varicella zoster).
- If a patient is evaluated and monkeypox is considered to be high on the differential diagnosis consult with your LHD on testing. **LHD approval for testing is required at present and instructions for specimen collection are frequently updated.**
 - To collect specimens: 1) Vigorously swab lesion (unroofing, if possible) with two separate sterile dry polyester or Dacron swabs. Careful unroofing of the lesion may improve testing results; 2) Break off each swab into a sterile 1.5- or 2-mL screw-capped tube with O-ring, or place each entire swab into a separate sterile container. Keep swab dry; **do not add or store in any type of transport media.**
 - Collect specimens from 3 lesions if possible (2 swabs each for a total of six swabs)

3. Infection Control considerations

- **Healthcare Setting--** Patients presenting with symptoms concerning for monkeypox should be placed as soon as possible in a single-person exam room with door closed, or an airborne infection isolation room, if available.

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

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The patient should remain masked, and any exposed skin lesions should be covered with a sheet or gown. In addition, please consider telemedicine evaluation in a medically stable patient.

Healthcare personnel (HCP) and LHD staff evaluating patients with suspected monkeypox should wear the following personal protective equipment (PPE): gloves, gown, eye protection (goggles or faceshield) and a N95 or equivalent or higher-level respirator. HCP should don PPE before entering the patient's room and use during all contact with the patient. HCP should remove and discard gloves, gown and eye protection, and perform hand hygiene prior to leaving the patient's room; the N95 respirator should be removed, discarded and replaced

- **Infection Control at Home** Patients who do not require hospitalization for medical reasons can recuperate at home. Standard measures, such as good hand hygiene, laundering clothes in warm or hot water and detergent, and cleaning surfaces with standard household disinfectants, are all thought to be effective in destroying the monkeypox virus.

At this time, CDC considers patients to be infectious from the onset of symptoms (rash or other symptoms) and until skin lesions have crusted, those crusts have separated, and a fresh layer of healthy skin has formed underneath.

Highlights of key infection control measures in the home include:

- Persons with extensive lesions that cannot be easily covered, draining/weeping lesions, or respiratory symptoms should be isolated in a room or area separate from other family members and pets when possible.
- Skin lesions should be covered to the best extent possible (e.g., long sleeves, long pants) to minimize risk of contact with others.
- Persons with monkeypox should not leave the home except as required for follow-up medical care.
- Persons with monkeypox should wear a surgical mask, especially those who have respiratory symptoms. If this is not feasible other household members should consider wearing a surgical or higher-level (e.g., N95 or KN95) mask when in the presence of the person with monkeypox.
- Disposable gloves should be worn for direct contact with lesions and disposed of after use.
- Unexposed persons who do not have an essential need to be in the home should not visit.
- Household members who are not ill should limit contact with the person with monkeypox.

For the full May 27, 2022 *Health Advisory* from the California Department of Public Health visit: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Health-Advisory-Monkeypox-Virus-5-27-22.aspx>

For the latest information on Monkeypox from the California Department of Public Health, visit: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Monkeypox.aspx>

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