

MONKEYPOX HEALTH ALERT

May 24, 2022

Situational Update

Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) is investigating a case of monkeypox virus in a person who traveled to one of the non-endemic countries that is currently part of the multi-country monkeypox outbreak. Confirmatory testing from CDC and CDPH is pending. Based on symptoms and preliminary testing, monkeypox confirmation is likely.

Since mid-May, cases of this rare disease have been reported from among [at least 12 countries](#) that are non-endemic for monkeypox, including the United States. Cases have not had travel to endemic countries in central or west African. Many cases have been identified among men who have sex with men (MSM), though not exclusively.

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.
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. See attached Orthopox Virus Laboratory Testing Guidance.
4. **Manage and treat** with supportive care and symptom control. Antiviral treatment and prophylaxis are available from CDC after case-by-case evaluation.


*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. CDC HAN: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2022/han00466.asp>
2. Multi-country monkeypox outbreak in non-endemic countries (WHO): <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2022-DON385>

Sincerely,



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Public Health Officer