

## Health Alert

### Mpox Outbreak Declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) August 19, 2024

#### Situational Update

The [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) declared the mpox outbreak in Africa a PHEIC on August 14, 2024. While the global outbreak in 2022 was caused by the clade II mpox strain, the current outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and surrounding countries are caused by clade I, previously observed to be more transmissible and cause more severe infection than the clade II mpox strain. The JYNNEOS vaccine is also expected to be effective for the clade I mpox strain. The current outbreak has been spreading through sexual networks. One case was detected outside of Africa in Europe last week.

#### Actions Requested of Health Care Systems and Clinicians:

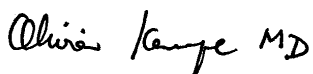
1. **Consider** mpox in a patient with compatible symptoms and recent travel to African countries or other affected countries.
2. **Isolate** patients suspected or confirmed with mpox in a single person room.
3. **Implement** infection control precautions. This includes standard precautions and use of appropriate personal protective equipment, such as gown, gloves, eye protection, and respirator.
4. **Report** any suspected cases immediately by phone to Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) at (916) 875-5881.
5. **Collect\*** samples for testing. The Sacramento County Public Health Laboratory will test for symptomatic patients with recent travel to affected areas.
6. **Manage** with supportive care and symptom control.
7. **Consult** with SCPH for treatment.

\*When evaluating patients with rash, also consider other common causes, such as herpes, syphilis, varicella zoster, etc.

#### Resources:

1. WHO Director-General declares mpox outbreak a public health emergency of international concern (WHO): <https://www.who.int/news/item/14-08-2024-who-director-general-declares-mpox-outbreak-a-public-health-emergency-of-international-concern#:~:text=Mpox%2C%20originating%20in%20Africa%2C%20was,in%201970%2C%20in%20the%20DRC.>
2. Mpox Caused by Human-to-Human Transmission of Monkeypox Virus in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with Spread to Neighboring Countries (CDC): <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2024/han00513.asp>
3. Infection Prevention and Control of Mpox in Healthcare Settings (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/mpox/clinicians/infection-control-healthcare.html>
4. Guidelines for Collecting and Handling Specimens for Mpox Testing (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/mpox/clinicians/prep-collection-specimens.html>
5. Clinical Considerations of Pain Management of Mpox (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/mpox/clinicians/pain-management.html>
6. Mpox Treatment Information for Healthcare Professionals (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/mpox/clinicians/treatment.html>

Sincerely,



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Public Health Officer