

WHAT PROVIDERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MONKEYPOX

VACCINES

Vaccines are effective at protecting people against monkeypox when properly administered before an exposure.

The JYNNEOS vaccine is licensed in the United States for the prevention of smallpox and monkeypox.

JYNNEOS is a two-dose series given 28 days apart. It is administered intradermally or subcutaneously, depending on the age. For more information on administration, please refer:

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/files/interim-considerations/guidance-jynneos-prep-admin-alt-dosing.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/files/interim-considerations/guidance-jynneos-prep-admin-stand.pdf>

TREATMENT

There are no treatments specifically for monkeypox virus infections. However, monkeypox and smallpox viruses are very similar, which means that antiviral drugs developed to protect against smallpox may be used to treat monkeypox virus infections.

Antivirals, such as tecovirimat (**TPOXX**), may be recommended for people who are more likely to get severely ill, like patients with weakened immune systems (immunocompromised).

MONKEYPOX REPORTING

DSHS is urging healthcare providers in Texas to be on alert for patients who have rash illnesses consistent with monkeypox.

To report a monkeypox case, please contact your **local health department**.



MONKEYPOX

Monkeypox is part of the same family of viruses that causes smallpox. The monkeypox virus is milder than smallpox and rarely fatal. Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is recommending treatments and vaccination for monkeypox to eligible individuals.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Fever	Chills
Headache	Exhaustion
Muscle aches and backache	Respiratory symptoms (e.g., sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough)
Swollen lymph nodes	
A rash	
The rash goes through several stages, including scabs, before healing.	
The rash can look like pimples or blisters and may be painful or itchy.	

After exposure, there can be 1-2 weeks before the development of initial symptoms which marks the beginning of the disease. However, some people get a rash first, followed by other symptoms.

Monkeypox can spread from the time symptoms start until the rash has healed, all the scabs have fallen off and a fresh layer of skin has formed.

SPREAD AND PROTECTION

Monkeypox can spread to anyone through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact, including:

Direct contact with monkeypox rash, scabs, or body fluids from a person with monkeypox.

Touching objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox.

Prolonged contact with respiratory secretions.

Providers are encouraged to talk to patients about protective measures. These include:

Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox.

Do not touch the rash or scabs of a person with monkeypox.

Do not kiss, hug, cuddle or have skin-to-skin contact with someone with monkeypox.

Avoid contact with objects and materials that a person with monkeypox has used.

Do not share eating utensils or cups with a person with monkeypox.

Do not handle or touch the bedding, towels, or clothing of a person with monkeypox.

Wash hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially before eating or touching your face and after you use the bathroom.

CURRENT VACCINATION ELIGIBILITY

Texas DSHS is following CDC recommendations for vaccine availability. CDC recommends vaccination as soon as possible, within 14 days, ideally within 4 days, for people who have been exposed to monkeypox and people who may be more likely to get monkeypox.

Eligibility for monkeypox vaccination may change over time based on the status of the outbreak and the availability of vaccine.

PRIORITY POPULATIONS:

Post exposure to prevent disease of people who have been identified as a close contact with someone who is confirmed or probable to have monkeypox (PEP).

Post exposure to prevent disease to persons with "presumed contact" due to close contact at an event/location where there is a confirmed case of monkeypox (PEP++).

Pre-exposure to prevent disease for a limited amount of healthcare workers who are likely to come into contact with monkeypox (PrEP).

Clinical/Research laboratory personnel

Certain healthcare and public health response team members

Local health entities may determine the most appropriate vaccination strategy in their jurisdiction.