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Maine Health Alert Network (HAN) System

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

To: All HAN Recipients
From: Dr. Isaac Benowitz, State Epidemiologist
Subject: Monkeypox Updates: Testing at Commercial Laboratories, Vaccination
Date / Time: Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 4:00PM
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Monkeypox Updates: Testing at Commercial Laboratories, Vaccination

Summary

- Monkeypox testing is now available at several commercial laboratories. Providers should send specimens for monkeypox testing to commercial laboratories rather than Maine CDC's Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL). Requirements for specimen type may vary depending on the lab used.
- Jynneos, a vaccine to prevent monkeypox, is available in Maine. Supplies are prioritized for close contacts of confirmed monkeypox cases and for persons who might have had recent monkeypox exposures based on certain criteria. Vaccine is not yet available for the general population.
- Please join the call noted below for additional updates on monkeypox.

**Maine CDC Monkeypox Updates for Clinicians:
*Epidemiology, Diagnosis, Testing, Treatment, and Infection Control***

Thursday, August 4, at 3:30PM ET

<https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/84949739031?pwd=eVJSRTdiUCsvTE9rVHIGUFdORktUUT09>

Meeting ID: 849 4973 9031 / Passcode: 53348067

One tap mobile +13126266799,,84949739031# or (IL) +16468769923,,84949739031# US (NY)

Availability of Monkeypox Testing at Commercial Laboratories

On June 22, 2022, the United States Department of Health and Human Services [announced](#) that five commercial laboratory companies would soon begin offering monkeypox testing. All five commercial labs (Aegis Science, LabCorp, Mayo Clinic Laboratories, Quest Diagnostics, and Sonic Healthcare) are now online, increasing nationwide testing capacity to 80,000 specimens per week.

Given the increased availability of commercial testing, monkeypox testing at Maine CDC's HETL will be limited. Providers should send specimens for monkeypox testing to one of the commercial laboratories noted above rather than to HETL. *Please note that specimen type and packing requirements may vary depending on the commercial laboratory used. See below for updated information on requirements for HETL.*

Monkeypox Vaccine in Maine

The State of Maine has received an allocation of Jynneos, an [FDA-approved](#) vaccine used to prevent monkeypox disease in adults. Jynneos is a two-dose vaccine given by subcutaneous injection. Persons are considered fully vaccinated 14 days after the second dose. When given for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) the first dose should be given within 14 days of exposure. If given within 4 days, it may prevent development of illness, and if given within 5–14 days it may result in a milder illness.

At this time, Maine CDC is making vaccine available for both:

- Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) of persons exposed to a person with confirmed monkeypox within the past 14 days. For now, clinicians caring for patients who had contact with a person with confirmed monkeypox illness should (1) collect information on the timing of exposure and (2) call Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821 to arrange for PEP. Additionally, persons who were exposed to a person with confirmed monkeypox illness within the past 14 days should contact Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821 for information on PEP access.
- Expanded PEP of persons with certain risk factors who are more likely to have been exposed to a person with confirmed monkeypox. Clinicians and case managers should refer eligible patients to select STI/HIV clinics for expanded PEP. Eligibility includes Maine residents who are age 18 years and older who are gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men, and/or transgender, gender non-conforming, or gender non-binary AND have had multiple male partners in last 14 days AND have at least one of the following:
 - Recent partner in past 14 days showing symptoms of monkeypox (rash, sores) but not diagnosed, or
 - Recent partner arranged through online apps/social media (e.g., Grindr, Tinder, Scruff) or large gatherings (clubs, sex parties, bathhouses), or
 - Has a condition that increases risk for severe monkeypox disease (e.g., HIV/AIDS, other immunocompromising condition, severe case of skin disease from atopic dermatitis or eczema).

This approach is subject to change based on evolving disease dynamics and vaccine supply. PEP is the highest priority for vaccination, and supplies for expanded PEP may decrease as more cases are identified and their close contacts are offered vaccination. More information the STI/HIV clinic locations with supplies of Jynneos will be forthcoming.

As a reminder, monkeypox is a reportable condition in Maine; any confirmed case of monkeypox is immediately reportable to Maine CDC within 24 hours; and all monkeypox or non-variola orthopoxvirus test results (positive or negative) are reportable to Maine CDC within 24 hours. For more information, see the [Maine CDC HAN dated July 15, 2022](#).

For more information:

- Instructions for [collecting and submitting suspected monkeypox samples to HETL](#)
- Maine CDC monkeypox website: www.maine.gov/dhhs/monkeypox
- Maine CDC notifiable conditions rule: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/disease-reporting/documents/notifiable-conditions-rule-2-17-2021.pdf>