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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To: Health Care Providers
From: Dr. Puthiery Va, Maine CDC Director
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Update on Mpox Activity in Maine

Summary

- Mpox virus [continues to circulate](#) at low levels across the U.S. Four cases of mpox have been reported to the Maine Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) since September 23, 2026, two of which are clade I. These are the first cases of clade I mpox identified in Maine.
- People at risk for mpox exposure should seek vaccination. This includes gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, as well as transgender or nonbinary people who have a recent diagnosis of a sexually transmitted disease. Vaccination is also recommended for anyone with more than one sex partner, or those who have had sex at a commercial sex venue or a large public event in a geographic area with active mpox transmission. Maine's Universal Immunization Program provides the Jynneos vaccine for eligible people through age 64.
- As of October 9, 2026, there were six confirmed or probable cases of mpox reported to the Maine CDC in 2026. All six cases reported male to male sexual contact, and most had no recent history of travel outside the U.S. Four of the cases, 2 in Knox, 1 in Sagadahoc, 1 in Androscoggin, were reported since September 23, 2026. The two cases from early 2026 were clade II, and two cases from September 2026 were clade I. These are the first cases of clade I mpox identified in Maine. Clade testing is ongoing for the remaining two cases. There are no indications, at this time, of linkages between the four new cases.
- Regardless of clade, the recommendations for prevention of mpox are the same: the Maine CDC encourages clinicians to remain alert for patients who present with [symptoms of mpox](#), including rash, fever, chills, and swollen lymph nodes. Clinicians should encourage and offer vaccination for mpox to those at risk.

Recommendations for Clinicians

Testing

Skin lesion material, including swabs of lesion surface, exudate, or lesion crusts are the recommended specimen types for laboratory testing of mpox virus specimens. Multiple lesions, if present, should be tested. Unroofing or aspiration of lesions for mpox testing, or otherwise using sharp instruments before swabbing, is not necessary and is not recommended due to the risk for sharps injury. Testing is available at several commercial laboratories. There are no commercially available tests available for people without visible lesions. Collection methods such as swab type, transport medium, and shipping temperature may vary by laboratory. For more information on mpox testing, see [Guidelines for Collecting and Handling Specimens for Mpox Testing](#).

The Maine CDC strongly encourages clinicians evaluating persons for mpox to also evaluate and screen for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia, per [U.S. CDC STI Treatment Guidelines](#). The Maine CDC currently recommends HIV testing at least every three months for persons with ongoing risk factors. This [interim recommendation](#) is a result of the ongoing case finding efforts related to the HIV outbreak in Penobscot County.

Vaccination

[Jynneos](#) is a live, non-replicating viral vaccine for prevention of smallpox and mpox. Jynneos is given as a series of two doses separated four weeks apart. Patients receiving the mpox vaccination can start to have an immune response after the first dose of Jynneos, but it takes two weeks after the second dose to reach optimal protection. Jynneos is fully licensed in the U.S. for subcutaneous administration in individuals aged 18 years and older, and an [Emergency Use Authorization](#) (EUA) allows Jynneos to be used:

- By intradermal injection for prevention of mpox disease in individuals 18 years of age and older determined to be at high risk for mpox, and
- By subcutaneous injection for prevention of mpox disease in individuals younger than 18 years of age determined to be at high risk for mpox.

Jynneos Availability Through Maine's Universal Immunization Program

Maine's Universal Immunization Program provides Jynneos vaccine for eligible people through age 64. The program expanded on July 1, 2026, to include adults ages 19-64. Jynneos may also be provided to eligible people younger than 18 years who are at high risk for mpox under the FDA EUA. Providers [enrolled](#) in the program can order vaccine through the Immunization Information System (ImmPact) for eligible people through age 64. Providers who care for patients at increased risk for mpox are encouraged to assess their vaccine needs and order vaccine accordingly. Maine's Universal Immunization Program does not provide Jynneos vaccine to adults 65 years and older. For people aged 65 years and older, Jynneos is covered by Medicare Part D for prevention, and by Medicare Part B for post-exposure prophylaxis.

Jynneos Vaccination Recommendations

Jynneos is currently recommended for:

- Pre-exposure vaccination of people at risk for occupational exposure to orthopoxviruses
- People aged 18 years and older at risk of mpox during an mpox outbreak, including individuals at risk for mpox exposure who plan to travel to countries experiencing mpox outbreaks
- People aged 18 years and older with the following risks:
 - Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men; transgender or nonbinary people who in the past six months have had one of the following: a new diagnosis of ≥ 1 sexually transmitted disease; more than one sex partner; sex at a commercial sex venue; or sex in association with a large public event in a geographic area with active mpox transmission
 - Sexual partners of people with the risks described above
 - People who anticipate experiencing any of the above
- People aged 18 years and younger who are at risk of mpox

Reporting

Any confirmed or probable case of mpox is reportable to the Maine CDC within 24 hours. All mpox virus or non-variola orthopoxvirus test results (positive or negative) are reportable within 24 hours. Reports can be provided to the Maine CDC through electronic laboratory reporting, by fax at 207-287-8186, or by phone at 800-821-5821.

Resources

- U.S. CDC Mpox Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/monkeypox/index.html>
- Maine CDC Mpox Information: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/diseases-conditions/infectious-diseases/mpox>
- U.S. CDC STI Guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/default.htm>
- Maine Universal Immunization Program: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/health-professionals/immunization/vfc-avp-programs>
- U.S. CDC ACIP JYNNEOS Recommendations: Use of JYNNEOS for Persons Aged ≥ 18 Years at Risk for Mpox During an Mpox Outbreak: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/74/wr/mm7422a3.htm>