



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Montgomery County
Public Health District

July 27, 2022

Dear Montgomery County and Surrounding Counties Medical Providers,

With the rise in monkeypox in the US, as well as Texas, Montgomery County Public Health District (MCPHD) want to send out testing options and guidance.

As of 7/26/22, 3,590 cases reported in the US. Almost half are in Public Health Region 2/3. Texas has 231 cases reported with 228 being male. In Montgomery County, we have one positive case while many have been tested. In Region 6/5 South, there are around 70 cases.

As a provider, you have several options for testing. You are welcome to use the commercial labs such as Labcorp and Quest. We recommend you call and get any specific testing guidelines from them prior to having a patient present to your office. As the local health department, we would like for you to email us or call us, for Montgomery County residents, to report when you have a patient you are testing. Please send medical records to MCPHD at MKPX@mchd-tx.org

The other option for testing is using the state LRN Lab in Houston. If you do not have the capability to utilize a commercial lab or have an unfunded patient, you may submit specimens to the City of Houston. To do this, you will need to contact MCPHD by email at MKPX@mchd-tx.org or call 1-888-825-9754. MCPHD will then contact the state to get approval and submission number. This means we will need medical records including pictures of the rash if you have them. Then, MCPHD will send you the guidance for collection. Guidance will follow this document. Please read all procedures and guideline criteria prior to submission. You will need 2 dry swabs of the rash/scab. All specimens must be collected at your clinic/facility and sent or transported to the Houston LRN lab.

Vaccinations are in short supply but expected to increase in the coming months. On July 25, The Texas Department of State Health Services has received a shipment of 14,780 doses of the JYNNEOS monkeypox vaccine. <https://dshs.texas.gov/news/releases/2022/20220725.aspx>

Pre-exposure vaccines are limited to lab personnel or hospital staff who may be exposed. <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/IDCU/disease/monkeypox/Monkeypox/>

JYNNEOS (also known as Imvamune or Imvanex) is an attenuated live virus vaccine approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to prevent monkeypox. On November 3, 2021, The



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Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) unanimously voted to recommend JYNNEOS pre-exposure prophylaxis as an alternative to the live smallpox vaccine ACAM2000 for certain persons at risk for exposure to orthopoxviruses. [ACIP evaluated JYNNEOS](#) to protect research laboratory personnel, clinical laboratory personnel performing diagnostic testing for orthopoxviruses, designated response team members, and health care personnel who administer ACAM2000 or care for patients infected with orthopoxviruses.

Post exposure vaccines are available in limited supply as well. These are approved for household contacts of a positive case or sexual contacts of a positive case. Please note that monkeypox is not classified as a high consequence infectious disease.

A dose of vaccine can prevent the disease from occurring if given soon after a person is exposed, ideally within four days. If given five to 14 days after exposure, vaccination may reduce the symptoms but may not prevent the disease entirely. People need two doses of the JYNNEOS vaccine to be fully vaccinated.

Thank you for your partnership in caring for the patients in Montgomery County.

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