



**LAC DPH Health Update:
Monkeypox Updates Including Provider
Webinar this Friday, July 22**
July 21, 2022



*This message is intended for all healthcare providers.
Please distribute as appropriate.*

Key Monkeypox Updates

- Tecovirimat is available for use in Los Angeles County for patients with severe monkeypox disease or who are at risk for severe disease.
- The eligibility criteria for monkeypox vaccination has been expanded to a larger group of high-risk persons.
- Commercial monkeypox testing options now include Quest, Labcorp, Aegis Sciences, and Sonic Healthcare USA.
- LAC DPH will be hosting a [live webinar](#) for healthcare providers this Friday, July 22 from 2-3pm; Event password: EyMi3jmcC23

Please see below for more details.

Treatment of Monkeypox Disease

The current circulating strain of monkeypox has been to date limited to the West African clade, which tends to cause milder disease. Most patients have mild disease and recover without medical intervention. Patients with severe monkeypox disease, including those with pain that interferes with the activities of daily living, and patients at high risk for severe disease should be considered for treatment.

Tecovirimat (also known as TPOXX or ST-246) is an FDA-approved antiviral medication for the treatment of human smallpox disease. The CDC holds an expanded access Investigational New Drug (EA-IND) protocol that allows for the use of stockpiled tecovirimat to treat monkeypox disease during an outbreak.

Data are not available on the effectiveness of tecovirimat in treating monkeypox infections in people, but studies using a variety of animal species have shown that tecovirimat is effective in treating disease caused by orthopoxviruses. Clinical trials in people showed the drug was safe and had only minor side effects.

Tecovirimat is available for use in Los Angeles County for patients who meet the CDC [clinical criteria](#). Informed consent is required for all patients treated with tecovirimat and

providers must follow the CDC EA-IND protocol. Tecovirimat is available in oral and intravenous formulations

To obtain tecovirimat, healthcare providers must first call the DPH healthcare provider line. LAC DPH has developed guidance to support clinicians in obtaining and using tecovirimat. See [Guidance for the Treatment of Monkeypox-Tecovirimat](#).

Commercial Monkeypox Testing

The list of commercial labs providing monkeypox testing continues to grow. Providers should submit specimens through commercial labs if possible. Commercial testing for monkeypox is now available at the following laboratories*: [Quest](#), [Labcorp](#), [Aegis Sciences](#) and [Sonic Healthcare USA](#).

** Note that the [Mayo Clinic Laboratories](#) has been removed from the list of available commercial laboratories as they are not currently providing testing for providers outside their clinic system.*

In order to ensure timely and efficient testing and resulting from commercial laboratories and reporting to public health, ordering providers should use electronic test orders and should ensure that the required demographics are accurately and completely entered on the order.

Updated Patient Vaccine Eligibility Criteria

Monkeypox vaccine supplies remain very limited and are prioritized for residents at highest risk of exposure. Providers can refer eligible patients for JYNNEOS vaccination.

The [eligibility criteria for vaccination](#) has been expanded to gay or bisexual men and transgender persons who:

- a. Had a diagnosis of gonorrhea and/or early syphilis within the past 12 months (previously was within past 3 month); OR
- b. Are on HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP); OR
- c. Attended or worked at a commercial sex venue or other venue where they had anonymous sex or sex with multiple partners (e.g., saunas, bathhouses, sex clubs, sex party) within past 21 days.

Please refer to the [Monkeypox Vaccination and Post Exposure Prophylaxis](#) section of the Monkeypox Provider Hub to see the full list of groups eligible for vaccination and how to refer eligible patients. Providers are encouraged to visit the eligibility and referral section frequently for the most current information.

LAC DPH Webinar--Update on Monkeypox

This live webinar for healthcare providers will provide updates on the current status of monkeypox in LA County including the monkeypox vaccine roll-out and current guidance on testing and treatment of monkeypox.

Date: Friday, July 22, 2022

Time: 2-3 pm

No advance registration needed.

Click [here](#) to join the live webinar; Event password: EyMi3jmcC23

The webinar will be recorded and available for later viewing from the LAC DPH [Healthcare Provider Monkeypox Hub](#)

[Visit the LAC DPH Provider Monkeypox Hub](#)

Refresh your browser to view the latest version.

This communication was sent by Dr. Sharon Balter, Chief, Acute Communicable Disease Control Program, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

To view this and other communications or to sign-up to receive LAHANs, please visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/lahan>