**hMPXV (Monkeypox) Update**

Monkeypox (hMPXV) is a disease caused by a virus not commonly seen in the United States, but regularly seen in other parts of the world. It is a known virus characterized by a rash and often includes flu-like symptoms. It usually is spread through close physical contact.

There are currently several thousand cases of hMPXV in the U.S., including cases in Oregon. As of August 16, there are now a total of 12,689 confirmed cases of hMPXV in the United States. There are 116 cases reported in Oregon as of August 17, and no known cases in Jackson County at this time.

hMPXV is not limited to one community or another; anyone can be affected by hMPXV. A majority, but not all, of the cases currently in the U.S. have been among men who have sex with men, particularly those who have multiple sex partners. There is nothing specific about men who have sex with men that puts someone at higher risk for getting hMPXV. This happens to be the first socially-connected group that has been affected by this particular outbreak.

**Testing Guidance**

Medical providers no longer need to request permission from the Oregon Health Authority to test or report that they are testing for hMPXV in a patient. Testing is available through the Oregon State Public Health Lab (OSPHL), LabCorp, Quest, Mayo, Aegis, Sonic, and Asante. The OSPHL should only be used if a commercial lab is not available.

Anyone with high-risk exposure, typically prolonged skin-to-skin contact, can be affected by hMPXV. If a patient presents with new skin lesions and there is no clear etiology, Jackson County Public Health encourages medical providers to test for hMPXV. Because hMPXV can mimic other skin lesions, and many individuals have coinfections such as herpes, syphilis, and varicella, it is recommended that providers simultaneously test for those other infections.

**Clinical Considerations for hMPXV in Children and Adolescents**

Historically, monkeypox has been documented in children and adolescents living in endemic regions. Once illness occurs, the clinical presentation is expected to be similar to that in adults. However, it is not known whether children are more susceptible to monkeypox than adults or whether clinical outcomes differ from those in adults.
hMPXV should be considered when children or adolescents present with a rash that could be consistent with the disease, especially if epidemiologic criteria are present.

- Young children, children with eczema and other skin conditions, and children with immunocompromising conditions may be at increased risk of severe disease.

- Treatment should be considered on a case-by-case basis for children and adolescents with suspected or confirmed hMPXV who are at risk of severe disease or who develop complications of hMPXV. Tecovirimat is the first-line medication to treat hMPXV, including in children and adolescents.

- Children and adolescents with exposure to people with suspected or confirmed hMPXV may be eligible for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) with vaccination, immune globulin, or antiviral medication.

### Reporting Requirements

Healthcare providers and laboratories are required to report probable and confirmed cases of hMPXV to Jackson County Public Health immediately. Healthcare providers and laboratories should:

1. Collect and report information about the ill person's clinic presentation and epidemiological risk factors.
2. Provide additional information to public health as requested during the case investigation

### How to Report Probable and Confirmed Cases to Jackson County Public Health

1. **Call Jackson County Public Health Communicable Disease** – Clinicians can call and make a report 24 hours a day. For immediate reporting requirements or after-hours, call 541-618-4651. During business hours or for non-immediate reporting requirements, call 541-774-8045

2. **Electronic** – This is a web-based confidential reporting system through the Oregon Health Authority. These reports will be automatically routed to Jackson County Public Health. Click on the hyperlink to access the Web-based Confidential Oregon Morbidity Report.

3. **Fax** – Clinicians can fax (541-774-7954) a report to Jackson County Public Health using the Oregon Confidential Morbidity Form (please click on the hyperlink to access this form).

### Isolation and Quarantine Guidance for Patients

Please also share with suspect hMPXV patients the following guidance on home isolation:

- OHA: Isolation Guidance (English)
- OHA: Isolation Guidance (other languages)

### Vaccination

Vaccination is an important tool in preventing the spread of hMPXV. But given the current limited supply of vaccines, Jackson County Public Health is encouraging people to change some behaviors that may increase the risk of exposure. These changes will help slow the spread of hMPXV until the vaccine supply is adequate.
For information on vaccination and eligibility, call the Jackson County Public Health Immunization Clinic at 541-774-8209 or email HHShelp@jacksoncounty.org.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has provided local health departments interim guidance on who is eligible to receive the Jynneos vaccine. At this time, the OHA is implementing standard post-exposure prophylaxis and expanded post-exposure prophylaxis. For more information, visit the OHA Interim hMPXV Vaccination Guidance.

**Treatment Option**
The antiviral tecovirimat is available under an investigational new drug (IND) protocol and may be considered for individuals with hMPXV meeting CDC-listed clinical criteria.

For more information on accessing tecovirimat, visit:
- OHA: Obtaining Tecovirimat for hMPXV Patients
- OHA: Tecovirimat Request Form

**Resources**
- Jackson County Public Health: Information on Monkepyox (hMPXV)
- OHA: Orthopoxviruses (Monkeypox)
- CDC: Information for Healthcare Professionals
- Sign up for CDC Health Alert Network emails

### Back-to-School Immunizations

As children in Jackson County begin to head back to school this month, Jackson County Public Health wants to remind families and medical providers that vaccinations are an important part of back-to-school success and overall health and well-being.

Heading back to school is an exciting time of year for students and families and is valuable time for children to learn and socialize, but unfortunately, the sustained, close contact with students and staff inside school buildings gives viruses more opportunities to spread.

Immunizations are required for attendance at all Oregon public, private, charter, or alternative schools. They are also required at all preschools, Head Start programs, and certified child care facilities. Medical and non-medical vaccine exemptions are accepted in Oregon.

**Oregon requires immunization against 11 vaccine-preventable diseases:**
- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Pertussis
- Polio
- Varicella
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis A
- Hib (Haemophilus influenza type B) only for children under 5 years of age
COVID-19 is not a school-required vaccine, but it is highly recommended that children receive the COVID-19 vaccine to reduce the spread of the virus and protect children from severe complications from the disease. Other vaccines that are not required for school or childcare, but are recommended include, Pneumococcal, Influenza, Rotavirus, Meningococcal, and HPV (human papillomavirus).

Jackson County Public Health's Immunization Clinic is a Vaccine for Children (VFC) Provider. Children enrolled in Medicaid/Oregon Health Plan, uninsured, or American Indian/Alaska Native may receive no-cost immunizations at a VFC Provider, such as the County Health Department, Federally Qualified Health Center, or Rural Health Clinic. Children whose health insurance policies do not cover some or all vaccines, or only cover vaccines until a child reaches a certain age (i.e., considered "underinsured") may receive no-cost immunizations through a VFC Provider.

There is an administration fee for receiving vaccines, but no child will be denied services based on the inability to cover the fee.

Jackson County Public Health Immunization Clinic
- Appointments are encouraged, and walk-ins are welcomed
- **Address:** 140 South Holly Street, Medford
- **Hours of Operations:** 8:00 am - 11:45 am, and 1:00 pm - 4:45 pm
- **Phone Number:** 541-774-8209

### Training & Conferences

1. **Congenital Syphilis Update:** Join the Oregon AETC and Jackson County Public Health as we explore local epidemiology and the most recent state and federal recommendations while reviewing syphilis test options and interpretation, staging, and appropriate treatment.
   - **Date:** October 4, 2022
   - **Time:** 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
   - **Location:** DANCIN Vineyards, 4477 S Stage Rd. Medford, OR 97501
   - **Cost:** FREE, CME available at no cost to attendees
   - **Registration:** tinyurl.com/medfordCS

"The mission of Jackson County Health and Human Services is to plan, coordinate and provide public services that protect and promote the health and well-being of county residents."