Guidance for Expanded Monkeypox Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP++)

This guidance document is being shared with healthcare providers and local health departments to give guidance on NJ residents eligible to receive JYNNEOS vaccine based on the current situation and vaccine availability. The current monkeypox outbreak in the United States is rapidly evolving. NJDOH will continue to provide updated recommendations as the situation evolves.

Overview

JYNNEOS is a vaccine licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to prevent monkeypox infection in people ages 18 years and older. JYNNEOS may be offered to pediatric patients in certain circumstances but requires special FDA-IND approval to do so. The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) has a supply of JYNNEOS vaccine received from the Strategic National Stockpile, with additional allocations expected in the coming weeks to months. When properly administered before or after a recent exposure, JYNNEOS can be an effective tool at protecting people against monkeypox illness.

Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

PEP continues to be available through local health departments for individuals that have known close contact within the last 14 days with someone who tested positive for orthopoxvirus or monkeypox virus. Vaccination of close contacts of someone highly suspicious for monkeypox can also be considered while test results are pending. Individuals should contact their local health department for PEP.

Expanded Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (AKA PEP++)

With the current supply of JYNNEOS vaccine in New Jersey, in addition to vaccine being available for PEP, the following residents may be eligible for vaccination:

- Individuals that attended an event where known monkeypox exposure occurred within the past 14 days
- Individuals that identify as gay, bisexual, or men who have sex with men (MSM), and/or transgender, gender non-conforming, or gender non-binary and who have a history of multiple or anonymous sexual partners within the past 14 days

Persons that have a condition that may increase their risk for severe disease if infected with monkeypox virus, such as a condition that weakens the immune system, or a history of atopic dermatitis or eczema, should be a high priority for vaccination if they have exposure risk as listed above.

Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

- PrEP can be considered for people at occupational risk according to Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices guidance: this includes laboratory workers, selected clinicians, response team members

Vaccine supply is still limited, so vaccine will be prioritized for PEP for individuals with known contact to highly suspect or confirmed orthopoxvirus/monkeypox virus cases, followed by persons with an above-mentioned risk factor who are at risk for severe disease if infected with monkeypox virus.
Vaccination Sites

Limited vaccine will be available for eligible individuals by appointment through the following community partners:

- Hyacinth AIDS Foundation/Project Living Out Loud!, Jersey City: 201-706-3480
- The Prevention Resource Network, a program of the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey, Asbury Park: 732-502-5100
- North Jersey Community Research Initiative (NJCRI), Newark: 973-483-3444, ext. 200

Vaccine is provided to states by the federal government. As vaccine supply increases, the number of vaccination sites may be updated. Check the NJDOH Monkeypox webpage for current information.

Public health and healthcare partners who wish to receive updates on monkeypox and other important health topics can “Subscribe to Health Alerts” at https://njlincs.net/default.aspx.

Resources

https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/smallpox-vaccine.html
https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/monkeypox.shtml
https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/smallpox-monkeypox.pdf