



Updated Guidance: Monkeypox

Date: June 17, 2022

Public Health Message Type: Alert Advisory Update Information

Intended Audience: All public health partners Healthcare providers Infection preventionists
 Local health departments Schools/Childcare centers ACOs
 Animal health professionals Other

On June 14, 2022, CDC released a Health Update via the CDC Health Alert Network (HAN) on the monkeypox outbreak in the United States. The full HAN is attached to this message. The Health Update contains information on updated case definitions, clinical presentations of confirmed monkeypox cases, and recommendations from the CDC for healthcare providers, health departments, and the public.

Guidance for NJ Healthcare Providers

If monkeypox is suspected in a patient, healthcare providers should follow CDC's [infection control recommendations](#) throughout the patient's visit. There are not designated healthcare facilities for suspect monkeypox patients- patients can be safely evaluated by healthcare providers if the proper infection control precautions are taken, include placing a patient in a single-person room; special air handling is not required. Intubation and extubation, and any procedures likely to spread oral secretions should be performed in an airborne infection isolation room. PPE used by healthcare personnel should include: gown, gloves, eye protection, and a NIOSH-approved particulate respirator equipped with N95 filters or higher. Additional information can be found on the [CDC's website](#).

If monkeypox is suspected in a patient, healthcare providers can proceed with collecting specimens that can be used for monkeypox testing. NJDOH has [updated guidance](#) on specimen collection and monkeypox testing. Specimen collection instructions can be found on page 2. Dry swabs are preferred, but swabs will now be accepted if stored in Viral Transport Media (VTM)- **swabs stored in Universal Transport Media will not be accepted**. All testing must first be approved by NJDOH CDS, but specimens can be collected and stored frozen while consultation with local health and NJDOH occurs.

Healthcare providers should complete the [Monkeypox Form](#) and **immediately report** the suspect case to the [local health department](#) where the case resides. If the LHD cannot be reached, please contact NJDOH at 609-826-5964 during business hours or 609-392-2020 on evenings, weekends, and holidays. Healthcare providers are also requested to take photographs of the lesions to assist with the consultation. When indicated, NJDOH will coordinate testing at PHEL.

If suspect monkeypox patients are stable, they do not need to remain hospitalized. Suspect monkeypox patients should be provided with [home isolation and infection control recommendations](#) to be followed while testing is pending, or if found positive for monkeypox, until all lesions have resolved, the scabs have fallen off, and a fresh layer of intact skin has formed.

Resources

[HAN Archive - 00468 | Health Alert Network \(HAN\) \(cdc.gov\)](#)
<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/monkeypox.shtml>
<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/index.html>