



Erie County
Department of
Health



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

GALE R. BURSTEIN, MD, MPH, FAAP
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

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To Healthcare Providers:

You may recall that a global outbreak of mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) in 2022 involved 30,000 reported mpox cases in the U.S. Mpox cases have declined significantly and are now relatively rare in New York State and Erie County, thanks to awareness efforts and vaccination campaigns that focused on people with the greatest risk of exposure.

The vast majority of mpox cases in 2022 to present have been associated with *clade 2*. The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene issued [a health advisory related to a recently detected mpox case](#) associated with travel (*clade 1*). The person was symptomatic and was isolated with appropriate medical care until full resolution of symptoms. While there are no known community cases of *clade 1* circulating in New York State including New York City, mpox *clade II* continues to be reported in the state.

In light of this report and as warmer weather creates more opportunities for travel, summer activities and festivals, the Erie County Department of Health **encourages unvaccinated people at high risk of mpox exposure to consider the two-dose JYNNEOS vaccine series.**

JYNNEOS vaccine provides effective protection against both clades of mpox; 2 doses taken 28 days apart are highly effective in providing maximum protection, 14 days after the second dose. While there are no restrictions on any person getting the vaccine, we strongly encourage all persons at high risk to get vaccinated.

High-risk categories include:

- MSM, transgender/non-binary persons with multiple or anonymous sex partners
- Known or suspected exposure within the last 14 days
- People who have transactional sex, attendees of large or private sex venues, PrEP users and people living with HIV, people with STIs
- Anyone with sexual partners who fall within any of these criteria
- Anyone who considers themselves at risk for mpox, or who expect to fall into any of these criteria

Mpox Symptoms

- Painful rash or lesions (external or mucosal)
- Fever, headache, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes
- Lesions may appear before or after systemic symptoms; rash lasts 2–4 weeks

continued

Mpox Transmission

- Skin-to-skin contact—especially intimate touch during sex
- Respiratory droplets during prolonged contact
- Contact with contaminated linens or surfaces

Mpox Testing

- If mpox is suspected, contact the Erie County Department of Health’s Office of Epidemiology at (716) 858-7697 for guidance on swabbing and transport.

JYNNEOS Vaccine

In Erie County, JYNNEOS vaccine is available at the Sexual Health Center at Erie County’s Jesse Nash Health Center at 608 William Street in Buffalo, through Evergreen Health at 206 S. Elmwood in Buffalo (Call [716] 847-2441), and some retail pharmacies. A vaccine locator is available at empoweredagainstmox.com. There is no current recommendation for a booster at this time for fully vaccinated people.

Though mpox cases are currently rare in NY, vigilance from our clinical partners will help identify potential new mpox cases, especially with the potential for more travel-related *clade I* cases.

Although tecovirimat (i.e., TPOXX), an Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved treatment for smallpox based on animal model studies, was made available for compassionate use while its safety and efficacy were being evaluated. Recently published results of a randomized, placebo-controlled trial* showed no evidence that tecovirimat therapy shortened the time to clinical resolution, reduced pain, or increased viral clearance among adults with clade II mpox.

Help us continued to reach out to MSM and at-risk communities about mpox symptoms, risk reduction and JYNNEOS vaccine availability.

Thank you for your commitment to community health. Please reinforce mpox awareness, diagnostic curiosity and vaccine advocacy in your practice.

Sincerely,



Gale R. Burstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
Commissioner of Health

*Zucker J, Fischer II WA, Zheng L, et al., Tecovirimat for the Treatment of Mpox. *Engl J Med* 2026;394:884-95.
DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2506495