

Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH)

WEEKLY MONKEYPOX UPDATE

LATEST NUMBERS

- As of August 17, 2022:
 - 203 total Monkeypox cases (confirmed + presumed)
 - Information on criteria for presumed cases available [here](#).
 - 3,909 doses have been administered.
 - Information on the federal management of Monkeypox vaccine delivery available [here](#).
- Data on Monkeypox cases and vaccine distribution, with demographic characteristics, are updated [here](#) every Monday.
- The Health Department, as part of its goal to be as transparent as possible, is one of the first jurisdictions in the country to report demographics on both people who have monkeypox and vaccine recipients.

LATEST NEWS

- Eligibility criteria updated
 - Eligibility criteria is listed [here](#) and has recently been updated to include:
 - Sex workers (of any sex or gender), and/or
 - Anyone with known close contact (skin-to-skin) with someone with monkeypox in the past 14 days
 - Vaccine supply is currently extremely limited, however, anyone who is currently eligible is able to get a vaccine.
- Federal vaccine dose conservation strategy
 - Due to the extremely limited supply on Monkeypox vaccine, on August 9, 2022, the FDA approved using 1/5th of the conventional dose as an intradermal injection.
 - The vaccine is administered into the layers of the skin rather than the traditional dosing into the subcutaneous area under the skin.
 - An intradermal vaccine is administered the same way an allergy or tuberculosis test is given.
 - As a result of this strategy, previously, the City expected to receive 3,612 vials, but has been told that only 720 vials will be allocated to Philadelphia.
 - Currently, this is the only Monkeypox vaccine allocation Philadelphia will receive until September.
 - PDPH response to the federal dose conservation strategy:
 - PDPH is advocating to our federal partners to reconsider and restore Philadelphia's allocation of vaccine, so the City can broaden vaccine eligibility and accessibility.
 - Meanwhile, due to the drastically reduced vaccine allocation PDPH is receiving from the federal government, the Health Department has no choice but to ask all partners to convert to using the intradermal strategy for all eligible patients or to conserve vaccine for those with an urgent need due to a known or suspected exposure until they are able to make that change.
 - PDPH recognizes this is not an ideal scenario, but with no more vaccine arriving until September, there is no other choice.
 - More information from PDPH is available [here](#).

LATEST VACCINATION AND CONTAINMENT RESOURCES

- **The number of vaccine appointments is EXTREMELY LIMITED at this time, and vaccine doses are prioritized for those at the highest risk.**
- Call the PDPH Call Center at 215-685-5488 for any possible or known exposure to Monkeypox.

LATEST VACCINATION AND CONTAINMENT RESOURCES (continued)

- The call center will ask questions to determine risk of exposure and eligibility to be vaccinated.
- The call center can make appointments for eligible residents to get a Monkeypox vaccine and provide guidance on quarantine, isolation, and safety following exposure.

LATEST GUIDANCE MATERIALS

- Find a social media toolkit [here](#).
 - Please use this toolkit to share information with priority groups, through both formal and informal social networks.
 - Feel free to adapt as needed to your audience.
- Find the latest flyers, brochures, and other educational materials [here](#) and [here](#).
 - Translated materials available.
 - For free printed copies, please contact Rainy.Paulino@phila.gov.
- Find the most up-to-date information on Monkeypox in the U.S. from the CDC [here](#).
- Find the most up-to-date information on Monkeypox in Philadelphia from PDPH [here](#).
 - This blog has the most comprehensive information on the Monkeypox virus and the public health response in Philadelphia.

LATEST ADVOCACY EFFORTS FOR AN EQUITABLE RESPONSE

- Due to the structural inequities creating barriers to accessing both healthcare services and vital emergency public health information, PDPH is focusing the response on the monkeypox outbreak on communities bearing the greatest burden and risk, which includes:
 - Racial and ethnic minorities, residents without access or trust in information from the Department of Public Health, residents experiencing poverty, residents who are sex workers, residents who are part of the queer, LBGTQIA+ communities, and residents who are men who have sex with men.
 - The current outbreak of monkeypox has been found more often in men and transgender people who have sex with men and/or who have had multiple partners. This is why vaccine is being prioritized for those groups.
 - Anyone who is eligible to be vaccinated against monkeypox can be vaccinated. Non-residents and people who do not have citizenship can receive vaccine if they are eligible. Vaccine is free, and insurance and ID are not required at PDPH-run clinics.
- PDPH is proactively reaching out to groups working with the above priority communities to ensure the latest guidance, vaccine, and containment resources are widely shared.
 - Community meetings to solicit feedback from partners are ongoing, and we welcome ideas and feedback on how to reach communities most at risk of becoming infected or transmitting the Monkeypox virus.
- The Monkeypox dashboard communicates details on the distribution of vaccine among priority groups.

STAY CONNECTED

- Please contact us with feedback and suggestions for topics you would find useful in this weekly newsletter or how we can better reach communities at risk of exposure to Monkeypox.
- This newsletter is produced by the Public Health Preparedness Program. To sign up, unsubscribe, or comment, email publichealthpreparedness@phila.gov.