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Division of Disease Control

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Mpox Update

10/2/2024

SUMMARY POINTS

- Since mid-August 2024, mpox activity has increased locally.
- JYNNEOS vaccine is now commercialized. Providers should order vaccine from the distributors and bill insurance.
- TPOXX is available primarily through the STOMP trial. Clinical consultation with the CDC is available for providers with a patient who cannot participate in the STOMP trial and who qualifies for treatment.

Background:
Cases of mpox continue to be identified worldwide. Clade Ia monkeypox virus (MPVX) is primarily affecting the western part of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). There is no circulation of clade Ia MPVX outside of DRC, Republic of Congo (ROC) and Central African Republic (CAR), countries where MPXV is endemic. Clade Ib MPVX continues to spread in Central and Eastern Africa and early data indicate that a large proportion of cases due to clade Ib MPVX among adults are associated with sexual contact. Transmission is ongoing in several countries where MPXV is not endemic, including Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. Additionally, travel-related cases have been identified in Kenya, Sweden, India and Thailand. While clade I cases have not been identified in the United States, mpox cases due to clade II MPXV continue to be identified in the United States. Cases are stable nationally; however, there are increases noted in certain areas. Since mid-August, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) has identified 11 mpox cases in Philadelphia, which is a marked increase from 6 reported cases occurring from May to early August 2024. New York and Los Angeles also saw an increase in cases recently.

Testing and Reporting:
Testing is available through commercial labs and the PADOH BOL. Swabs sent to commercial labs should be sent in viral transport media. Swabs sent to the PADOH BOL should be placed in dry transport tubes and a PADOH BOL specimen form must accompany the specimen. For swabs being sent to the PADOH BOL please call the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) Division of Disease Control (DDC) at 215-685-6741 during business hours or 215-686-4514 (after hours, press 1 for Unified Dispatch and ask for DDC on-call staff) to coordinate testing. Providers who are utilizing commercial laboratories for mpox testing can report suspected cases to PDPH during daytime hours. For additional information on specimen collection and testing, see:
https://hip.phila.gov/document/3663/PDPH_MpoxTestingProcess_May2023.pdf/.
Healthcare providers who suspect clade I infection in a patient should notify the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) immediately. PDPH will assist with coordination of clade I specific testing through the Pennsylvania Department of Health Bureau of Laboratories and CDC.

Vaccine Eligibility:
The CDC has updated vaccine eligibility for travelers to countries where clade I mpox is circulating. Travelers to DRC or other countries where there is sustained transmission of clade I mpox should be vaccinated with two doses of JYNNEOS if they anticipate sex with a new partner while on their trip, regardless of sexual orientation or gender. Full travel-related vaccine eligibility criteria are outlined in the CDC Health Advisory released on September 23, 2024. Providers should discuss anticipation of any sexual activity during travel plans. Up to one in three travelers will have sex with a new partner while on a trip. If possible, travelers should start their mpox vaccine series at least 6 weeks before a trip begins; however, vaccine should be given even if the series cannot be complete before travel.

Vaccine eligibility for those who aren't traveling has not changed and is available on the CDC mpox website.

CDC recommends vaccination against mpox if:

- You had known or suspected exposure to someone with mpox
- You had a sex partner in the past 2 weeks who was diagnosed with mpox
- You are a gay, bisexual, or other man who has sex with men or a transgender, nonbinary, or gender-diverse person who in the past 6 months has had any of the following:
    - A new diagnosis of one or more sexually transmitted diseases (e.g., chlamydia, gonorrhea, or syphilis)
    - More than one sex partner
- You have had any of the following in the past 6 months:
    - Sex at a commercial sex venue (like a sex club or bathhouse)
    - Sex related to a large commercial event or in a geographic area (city or county for example) where mpox virus transmission is occurring
- You have a sex partner with any of the above risks
- You anticipate experiencing any of the above scenarios
- You are at risk for occupational exposure to orthopoxviruses (e.g., certain people who work in a laboratory or a healthcare facility).

JYNNEOS Vaccine Access:
As of April 2024, JYNNEOS vaccine by Bavarian Nordic has moved to a commercial market. Providers can now purchase vaccine directly from the manufacturer for their eligible patients. Many commercial payors are offering reimbursement. Please refer to Bavarian Nordic's guidance for coding. For a list of distributors, refer to Contact Us | USA | Bavarian Nordic (bnvaccines.com). There are limited doses available throughout the city for uninsured patients. If you have an uninsured patient who needs vaccine, please reach out to the PDPH call center at (215) 685-5488 for further information.

Tecovirimat (TPOXX) Access:
As a reminder, use of TPOXX remains investigational and has not been approved for treatment of mpox. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases is conducting the Study of Tecovirimat for Mpox (STOMP) clinical trial to assess the efficacy of tecovirimat. Persons who meet certain criteria, including severe disease and severe immunocompromise, will be enrolled in an open-label arm in which all patients receive TPOXX. Providers should inform patients about the Study of Tecovirimat for Human Monkeypox Virus (STOMP) for their voluntary participation in order to access TPOXX. The University of Pennsylvania is a site locally. Contact William Short, MD at 267-971-3275 for more information about referring a patient. TPOXX may be available under the CDC's expanded access - investigational new drug (EA-IND) protocol after consultation with the CDC; however, PDPH can no longer provide TPOXX to providers directly. Providers who need TPOXX for a patient who cannot be consented to participate in STOMP should contact DDC at 215-685-6741 (business hours) or 215-686-4514 (after hours, press 1 for Unified Dispatch and ask for DDC on-call staff) to coordinate a call with the CDC's subject matter experts.