

California Department of Public Health Communication and Guidance for STI and HIV Testing for Patients with Suspect Monkeypox (MPX) Infections

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released “[HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections Among Persons with Monkeypox—Eight U.S. Jurisdictions, May 17 – July 22, 2022](#)” in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*. Data in this report demonstrate that people with HIV and bacterial sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are disproportionately affected by monkeypox (MPX). Among the almost 2,000 people in eight jurisdictions diagnosed with MPX in this report, 38% were people with HIV, and 41% had been diagnosed with one or more bacterial STIs in the preceding year. California contributed to this publication and our data are consistent with what has been published. These findings highlight a critical opportunity to:

1. Assess people with HIV and STIs for monkeypox vaccination eligibility
2. Test persons evaluated for MPX for [HIV and STIs](#), including syphilis and three-site testing (urogenital, rectal, pharynx) for chlamydia and gonorrhea as appropriate
3. Link to HIV care or HIV preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) as appropriate

To date, most MPX cases in the U.S. have occurred among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM). MSM also have higher rates of HIV and STIs than the general population, but data from this *MMWR* report found the HIV prevalence among people with MPX was higher than national HIV prevalence estimates for MSM in the U.S. People who are immunosuppressed are at increased risk for severe MPX disease, and should be prioritized for treatment with tecovirimat and monitored closely for complications of MPX.

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) would also like to remind providers that the CDC has published [Interim Guidance for Prevention and Treatment of Monkeypox in Persons with HIV Infection—United States, August 2022](#) and [FAQs on monkeypox and HIV](#).

You can find the latest monkeypox outbreak cases and data information at [Monkeypox Data \(ca.gov\)](#). National data is available at [2022 Outbreak Cases & Data | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#).