



**This is an official  
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

**MESSAGE ID:** MSHAN-20220712-00579-ALT (Health Alert)  
**RECIPIENTS:** All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, PAs, and  
Healthcare Providers – Statewide  
Tuesday, July 12, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Monkeypox Virus Update, Expanded Testing and Reporting

Dear Colleagues,

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to work with state and local public health departments to respond to increasing cases of monkeypox in the United States ([U.S. Monkeypox Outbreak 2022: Situation Summary | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#)).
- As of July 8, 2022, more than 760 cases have been identified in the US. **No cases have been identified in Mississippi to date.**
- While anyone with close contact with someone who has monkeypox is at risk for infection, many of those currently being impacted are gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men.
- To enhance surveillance and increase access to monkeypox testing in the US, HHS has expanded monkeypox testing to five commercial laboratories.
  - Both Mayo Clinic Laboratories and Labcorp have announced the availability of monkeypox testing using the CDC orthopox assay, which can detect monkeypox.
  - Aegis Science, Quest Diagnostics and Sonic Healthcare are among the additional commercial laboratories that plan for monkeypox testing in the future.
- Monkeypox testing is also available at the Public Health Laboratory with prior approval from the Office of Epidemiology (see [18997.pdf \(ms.gov\)](#) for monkeypox collection and submission to the PHL).
- **Vaccination:** Mississippi has been allocated a very limited supply of Jynneos monkeypox vaccine to utilize primarily for post-exposure prophylaxis in individuals with known direct contact to monkeypox, and for individuals with certain risk factors who are more likely to have been recently exposed to monkeypox (e.g., individuals in attendance at events or venues where cases have occurred).

Mississippi Physicians and Providers are asked to:

- Consider monkeypox testing in patients who
  - Have a new rash consistent with monkeypox (see [Clinical Recognition | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#))
  - Have a new rash/illness onset and fall into one of the currently identified higher risk groups ([Case Definitions† for Use in the 2022 Monkeypox Response | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#)).



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- Clinicians should notify the MSDH Office of Epidemiology immediately with suspected cases of monkeypox at 601-576-7725 (601-576-7400 after-hours, holidays, and weekends).
- Clinicians may collect and submit samples for monkeypox testing to a commercial laboratory or the Public Health Laboratory:
  - **Prior approval** from the MSDH Office of Epidemiology **is not required** to send monkeypox samples to a **commercial laboratory**, but clinicians should still notify the Office of Epidemiology with suspected cases.
  - Prior approval from the MSDH Office Epidemiology **is required** to submit samples to the **Public Health Laboratory** for monkeypox testing.
- Patients **SHOULD NOT** be referred to the local health department for monkeypox evaluation or testing.
- If you submit samples for testing on a patient, that patient should be advised to isolate at home until the test results are available ([Isolation and Infection Control: Home | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#)).

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD  
State Epidemiologist



*Alerting Message Specification Settings*

**Originating Agency:** Mississippi State Department of Health  
**Alerting Program:** **MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)**  
**Message Identifier:** MSHAN-20220712-00579-**ALT**  
**Program (HAN) Type:** **Health Alert**  
**Status (Type):** Actual ()  
**Message Type:** Alert  
**Reference:** MSHAN-00579  
**Severity:** Unknown  
**Acknowledgement:** No  
**Sensitive:** Not Sensitive  
**Message Expiration:** Undetermined  
**Urgency:** Undetermined  
**Delivery Time:** 600 minutes

**Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings**

**Originating Agency:** A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

**Alerting Program:** The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

**Message Identifier:** A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert**, **ADV=Health Advisory**, **UPD=Health Update**, **MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**)).

**Program (HAN) Type:** Categories of Health Alert Messages.

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Health Info Service:** Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Status (Type):**

- Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event
- Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
- Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded

**Message Type:**

- Alert: Indicates an original Alert
- Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
- Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
- Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted



**Reference:** For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

**Severity:**

Extreme:	Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe:	Significant threat to life or property
Moderate:	Possible threat to life or property
Minor:	Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown:	Unknown threat to life or property

**Acknowledgement:** Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

**Sensitive:**

Sensitive:	Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive:	Indicates non-sensitive content

**Message Expiration:** Undetermined.

**Urgency:** Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

**Delivery Time:** Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).