



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

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20220920-00586-UPD (Health Update)
RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, PAs, and
Healthcare Providers – Statewide
Tuesday, September 20, 2022
SUBJECT: Prior Notification Not Required for Monkeypox Sample Submission to
the Public Health Laboratory

Dear Colleagues,

Key Messages

- As of September 20, 2022, 66 cases of monkeypox have been reported in Mississippi:
 - Of the cases, 88% are among African Americans and 68% are among individuals living with HIV.
 - Most cases identify as male (92%). And of those for whom information is available, 93% identify as MSM.
 - The highest concentration of cases (53%) is in the Jackson area and surrounding counties.
 - The cases are among younger individuals as well, with a median age of 31 years.
- Monkeypox PCR testing is available at the Mississippi Public Health Laboratory. See [19225.pdf \(ms.gov\)](#) for specimen collection and submission guidelines.
 - **MSDH *no longer requires* prior notification to submit samples to the Mississippi Public Health Laboratory.**
- Monkeypox PCR testing is also available at several commercial laboratories (Aegis Science, Mayo Clinic Laboratories, LabCorp, Sonic Healthcare (AEL) and Quest Diagnostics).
- MSDH has recently expanded the eligibility for monkeypox vaccination. Individuals 18 years or older may be eligible for vaccination if they:
 - Have been notified or are aware of close intimate or sexual contact with someone diagnosed with monkeypox, OR
 - Identify as gay, bisexual, other men who have sex with men or are transgender individual, and
 - Have multiple or anonymous sex partners, OR
 - Attend events or venues where monkeypox may be transmitted (for example, by skin-to-skin contact or sex on-site), OR
 - Are living with HIV, OR
 - Have been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the prior 90 days.
- Monkeypox Vaccine is available for eligible individuals through enrolled providers and selected County Health Departments. See [19327.pdf \(ms.gov\)](#) for a list of Monkeypox Vaccine Providers in the state. Also see the Monkeypox Vaccine Locator at [Monkeypox Vaccine Locator · Monkeypox Vaccine Locator \(mpoxvaxmap.org\)](#)



- If you are interested in receiving and administering monkeypox vaccine, see [Healthcare Providers - Mississippi State Department of Health \(ms.gov\)](#) for monkeypox vaccine provider enrollment information.
- Tecovirimat (TPOXX) is an antiviral that can be used to treat monkeypox infections through an expanded access Investigational New Drug (EA-IND) protocol. Mississippi physicians/clinicians can request oral TPOXX directly from the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) for use in patients with severe disease or in patients who are at risk of severe disease. To request TPOXX from MSDH complete the MSDH Monkeypox Oral Request Form at [MSDH Monkeypox Oral TPOXX Request Form](#).

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-20220920-00586-**UPD**
Program (HAN) Type: **Health Alert**
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00586
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)).