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Health Update

To: Healthcare Providers

From: David Canton, DO, MPH, JD, Health Officer (signed original on file)

Date: August 1, 2022

Re: **Update for Clinicians on Testing and Treatment for Monkeypox**

This Health Update is being sent out by the Butte County Department of Public Health (BCPH) to inform providers of the latest California Health Alert Network (CAHAN) notification titled [Update for Clinicians on Testing and Treatment for Monkeypox](#) dated July 28, 2022.

Situation Update

As of today, BCPH has one probable monkeypox case in Butte County. As of July 28, a total of 786 probable and confirmed cases of monkeypox have been reported in California.

Testing

At this time several commercial labs are testing for monkeypox. Specimens can be submitted to commercial labs just as for other diseases. **Please be reminded that, when submitting specimens to commercial labs, refer to that lab for specimen collection and shipping instructions as requirements can vary.** Check frequently for updates to those instructions as this is a rapidly evolving situation. For general information, please refer to the CDC guidance; [Preparation and Collection of Specimens](#).

For specimens being sent to a public health laboratory, consultation with BCPH is required.

Please call 530.552.3929 during regular business hours or 530.332.2462 after hours. When specimens are being sent to a public health lab collect 2 swabs per lesion from several lesions from different areas of the body if lesions are present in more than one area. Place each swab in separate, sterile, dry containers (please mark/label duplicate swabs with identical number so they are easy to distinguish from separate lesion collections e.g., swabs from left thigh are both #1). If lesions are present in multiple areas, try to collect from different areas of the body. Specimen collection instructions may change so check frequently for updates.

Treatment

Tecovirimat (also known as TPOXX or ST-246) is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treating human smallpox disease caused by Variola virus in adults and children. Its use for Orthopoxvirus infections including monkeypox, is not approved by the FDA. However, CDC has an expanded access [Investigational New Drug application \(EA-IND\)](#) to allow access to and use of TPOXX to treat monkeypox in adults and children of all ages.

Please see [Information for Healthcare Providers on Obtaining and Using TPOXX \(Tecovirimat\) for Treatment of Monkeypox](#) for details. For further information you may also contact the Butte County Department of Public Health by calling 530-552-3929 during regular business hours or afterhours at 530-332-2462.

Reporting

Healthcare providers should NOT wait for laboratory results to report a case. As stated in Title 17 CCR 2500, **providers are mandated to IMMEDIATELY report any case or SUSPECT case to the local health jurisdiction in which the patient resides.** Reporting suspect cases allows BCPH to begin contact tracing to identify and provide post exposure prophylaxis for high-risk contacts, a critical step in breaking chains of transmission. Providers can report to the Butte County Department of Public Health (BCPH):

- **by telephone to 530.552.3929 during regular business hours or 530.332.2462 after hours**

AND

- **via [Confidentially Morbidity Report \(CMR\)](#) by fax to 530.538.5387 or electronically via CalREDIE provider portal**

In accordance with Title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR), failure to report is a misdemeanor (Health and Safety Code § 120295) and is a citable offense under the Medical Board of California's Citation and Fine Program (Title 16, CCR, § 1364).

Resources

Butte County Department of Public Health; [Report a Disease/Outbreak](#)

California Department of Public Health; [Monkeypox](#)

CAHAN Health Update; [Update for Clinicians on Testing and Treatment for Monkeypox](#)

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention; [Monkeypox](#)

U.S. Food & Drug Administration; [IND Applications for Clinical Treatment: Treatment of a Group of Patients in Non-emergency Setting](#)

Categories of urgency levels:

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