



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

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**SUSAN KANSAGRA MD, MBA** • Assistant Secretary for Public Health,  
Division of Public Health

To: Student Health Directors  
From: Zack Moore, MD, MPH, State Epidemiologist  
Re: Monkeypox Resources, Testing and Vaccine Availability  
Date: September 8, 2022

As students have returned to campus for the fall semester, we are writing to share valuable resources with you related to monkeypox and vaccine availability. Contained within this memo are three pieces of information to assist in responding to any monkeypox related concerns on campus.

**I. Upcoming invitation to a call between HBCU/MSI Leadership and Student Health Directors and NCDHHS**

In follow up to this memo and in recognition of the disparities noted below, HBCUs and MSIs will be receiving an invite to a call with representatives from NCDHHS to discuss our broader monkeypox response and to identify opportunities for deeper collaborations between our institutions and NCDHHS. This invitation is forthcoming and will be sent by Michael Leach, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary.

**II. Monkeypox Overview and Provider Guidance Document**

As of September 7<sup>th</sup>, there had been 387 cases of monkeypox diagnosed in North Carolina. While anyone can get monkeypox, nearly all cases in North Carolina have been in men who have sex with men. To date, 98% of detected cases have been in men, and 67% of detected cases have been in individuals who are Black or African American. Monkeypox is primarily spread person to person through close skin-to-skin contact and through infected body fluids. The disease typically begins with early symptoms that include fever, exhaustion, headache and sometimes a sore throat and cough. After early symptoms, a rash appears; in some cases, the first symptom is a rash. Anyone with [monkeypox symptoms](#) should get checked by a health care provider.

For additional details on monkeypox monitoring, testing and treatment please reference our [Monkeypox Provider Guidance Memo](#)

**III. Specifics on Monkeypox Vaccine**

Vaccines are currently available to mitigate the spread and severity of monkeypox. To date, 12,845 doses of the JYNNEOS vaccine have been administered in North Carolina. Most of these vaccines have been administered by local health departments, and campus student health centers may potentially be able to directly administer vaccine to student populations.

**NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Monkeypox vaccines are currently available individuals in North Carolina who meet the following criteria:

1. Anyone who had close contact in the past two weeks with someone who has been diagnosed with monkeypox; or
2. Gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men, or transgender individuals, who are sexually active; or
3. People who have had sexual contact with gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men, or transgender individuals in the past 90 days; or
4. People living with HIV, or taking medication to prevent HIV (PrEP), or who were diagnosed with syphilis in the past 90 days.

As your student health operations work to educate at-risk students on monkeypox, please remember the following opportunities and resources related to monkeypox vaccines.

- If student health operations would like to directly administer monkeypox vaccines, the first step is enrolling as a North Carolina provider. Enrollment can be completed by completing this web form: [Monkeypox Vaccine Enrollment and Capacity Survey](#).
  - Once enrolled, you will need to connect with one of our local health department hubs to receive a vaccine transfer. Our hubs and their contact information are available here.
- If you do not wish to directly enroll as a provider, we encourage you to familiarize yourself with monkeypox vaccine resources in your community in order to provide effective referrals.
  - North Carolina currently has 126 monkeypox vaccine providers. The list is available at [North Carolina Monkeypox Vaccine Providers](#).

More information and resources related to the monkeypox response are available at [ncdhhs.gov/monkeypox](https://ncdhhs.gov/monkeypox).

If you have questions or would like to speak to someone directly on monkeypox vaccines for your student body, please contact the [Regional Immunization Consultant](#) or [Regional Immunization Nurse](#) in your county.