



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE

**DIRECTIVE OF THE GOVERNOR
22-18**

DATE: August 12, 2022
To: The Department of Health
From: Governor Jay Inslee
Subject: Monkeypox Virus (MPV) Plan of Action

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is responding to an ongoing outbreak of monkeypox virus (MPV) that has spread across several countries, including the United States. Prior to the 2022 outbreak, MPV had been reported in Central and Western African countries and rarely outside of Africa unless linked to international travel.

MPV is in the same family of viruses as smallpox virus. The first human case of MPV was recorded in 1970. While MPV is rarely fatal, the rash can be extremely painful and scarring. MPV can spread person-to-person with any kind of sustained close, skin-to-skin contact, direct contact with rash or sores, or by contact with fomites (e.g., sharing linens with an infected person).

The CDC has been tracking MPV since the first U.S. case was confirmed on May 17, 2022. Washington has been actively responding since then and confirmed its first case on May 27, 2022. As of August 11, 2022, there have been 10,768 cases of MPV across the United States and approximately 254 total cases across twelve counties in Washington.

There are existing vaccines to help prevent infection and reduce the severity of illness related to MPV. There is a limited supply of vaccine available in the United States at this time. There is no shortage of antiviral medication, which can be used to treat individuals with severe disease and individuals who are at higher risk for severe disease including people who are immunocompromised, children under 8 years of age, people with a history of eczema and people who are pregnant.

Although there are currently no known deaths due to this virus in Washington, this outbreak is an evolving serious public health concern. I recognize that the Department of Health has already taken important steps to respond to MPV including activating its MPV *Readiness* Team on May 25, 2022, and its MPV *Response* Team on July 22, 2022, respectively. It is

critical that the Department continues to utilize every tool at its disposal to prevent and control the spread of this virus.

To further our response to address the evolving status of the virus in our state, I hereby direct the Department of Health to:

- Conduct comprehensive public outreach and education within appropriate communities and communities disproportionately impacted by the virus, working with and through trusted partners;
- Emphasize building relationships and engaging in outreach efforts to reach those individuals most at risk;
- Prioritize equitable distribution of existing treatments, including the limited supply of approved vaccine;
- Support provider education to ensure MPV vaccine is maximized to its fullest extent;
- Monitor case counts and demographic data;
- Convene a series of roundtables with key stakeholders and legislators to enhance communications and education related to MPV;
- Work with and support local health jurisdictions statewide as they manage MPV in their communities;
- Maintain adequate testing capacity at the Department's Public Health Lab and address identified reporting gaps; and
- Exercise available statutory authority to take appropriate disease control measures.

Furthermore, it is my expectation that the Department will keep me informed of any developments as this public health concern evolves. Other state agencies stand ready to assist the Department, as needed, to provide a coordinated and swift response.