

# Connecticut Department of Public Health

## What You Need to Know About Monkeypox

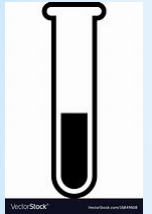
28-July-2022

Lynn Sosa, MD

# What you need to know



What is monkeypox and who is it affecting?



What does monkeypox look like and how do you get tested?



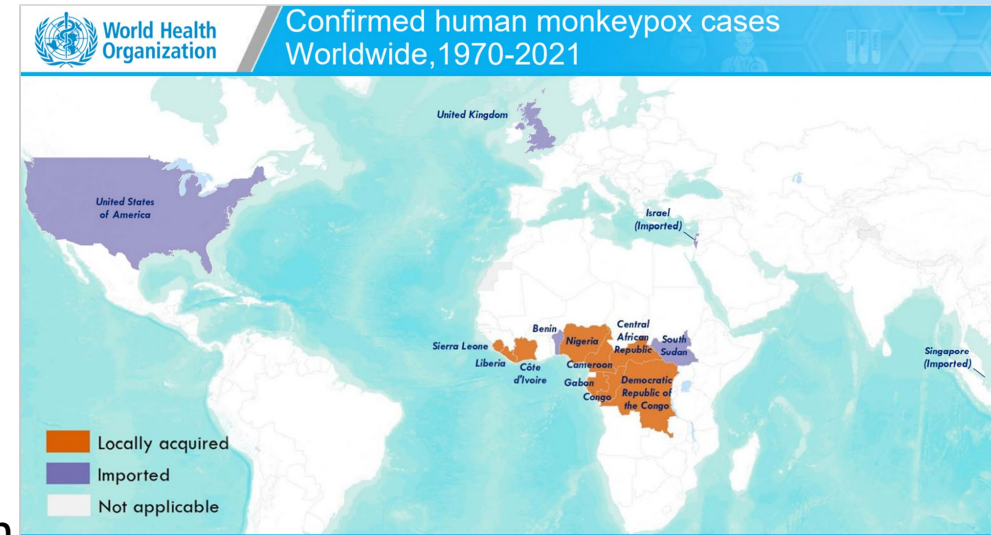
Are there treatments for monkeypox?



How can someone get vaccinated against monkeypox?

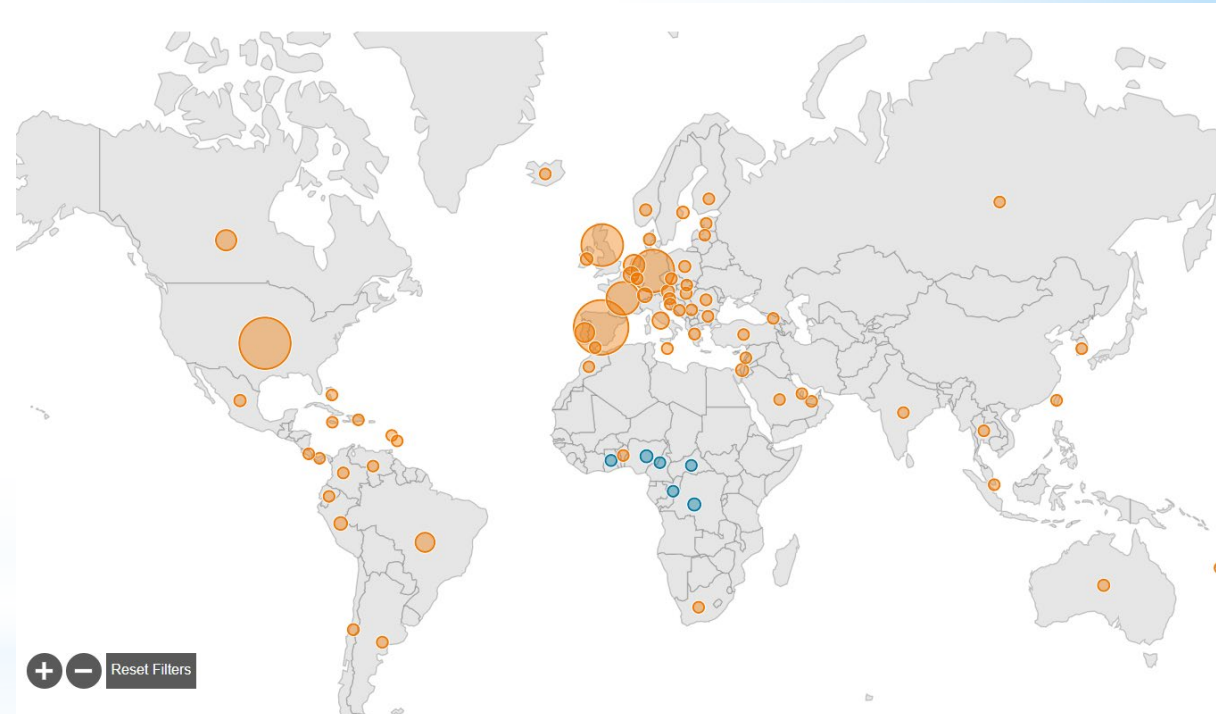
# What did we already know about monkeypox?

- Not a new disease but rare
- Endemic in west and central Africa
- Caused by Monkeypox virus (an orthopoxvirus)
- Specific animal reservoir unknown, but likely small mammals
- Can spread from infected animals to humans and person-to-person
  - Respiratory secretions
  - Skin-to-skin contact with infected body fluids (e.g., fluid from vesicles and pustules)
  - Fomites (e.g., shared towels, contaminated bedding)
- Incubation period is long: 4-17 days (average 5-13 days); **a person is not contagious until symptoms begin**
- Previous cases in the US associated with travel and imported small mammals



# What is new about monkeypox?

- May 2022- First reports of large numbers of cases of monkeypox in European countries where it does not usually occur
- Cases associated with large parties, raves
- Primarily affecting men who have sex with men, bisexual men and other men who have sex with men
  - **Primarily skin-to-skin contact, including close intimate/sexual contact**
- 16,836 cases in 74 countries
- WHO has declared monkeypox a global health emergency

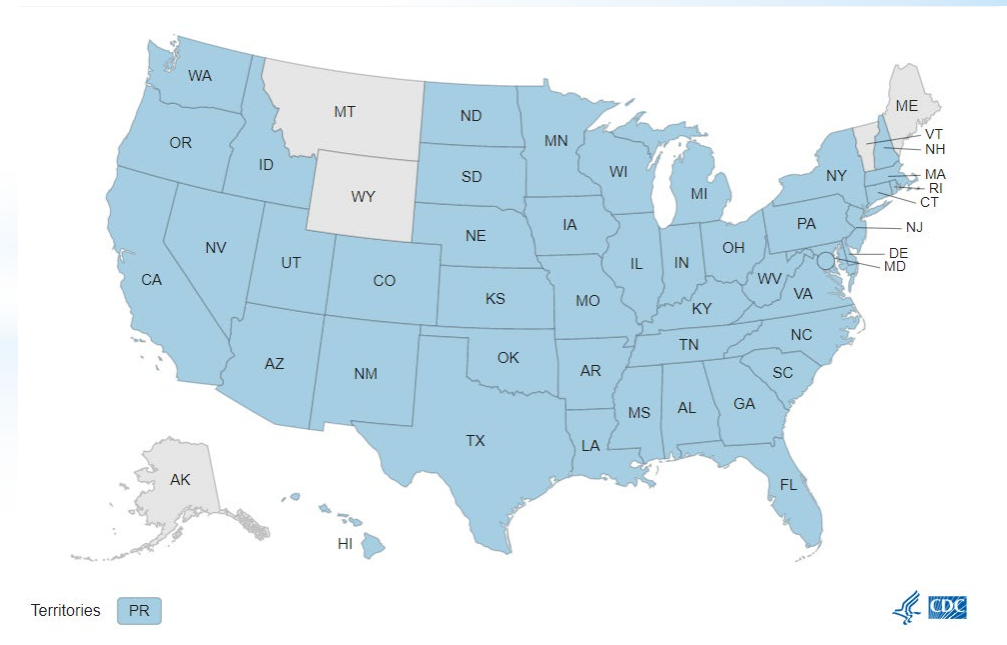


# Monkeypox in the United States

As of July 27, 2022- 4,639 cases

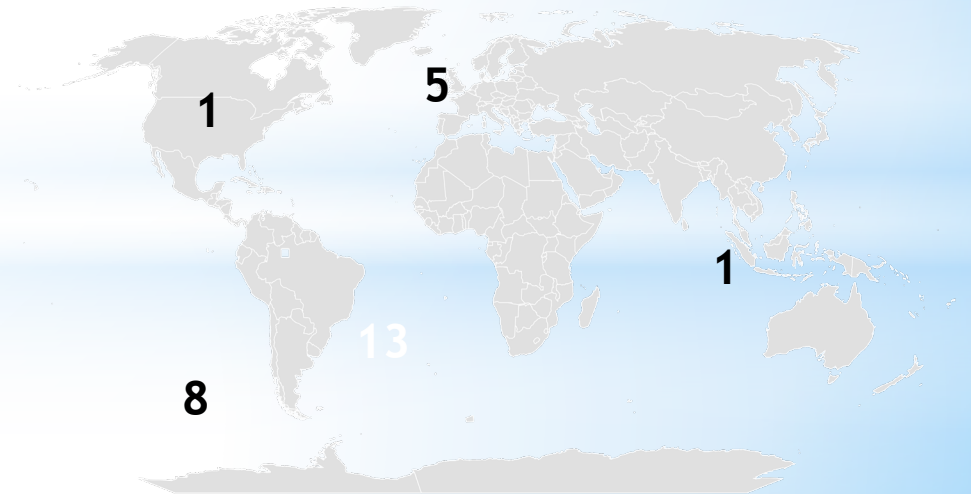
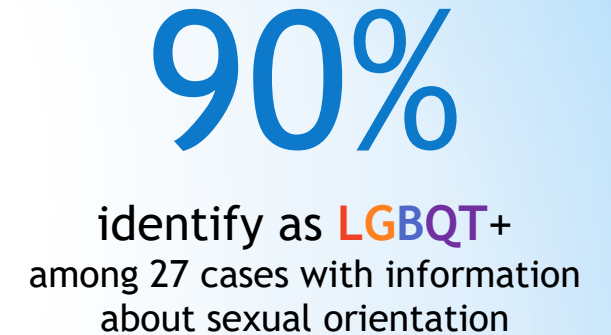
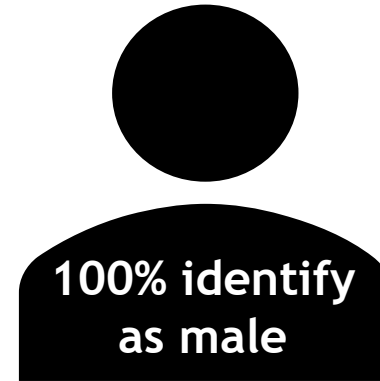
Based on available subset of data:

- Median age: 35 years, range 18-76 years
- Majority male sex at birth and men who have sex with men
- 45% White non-Hispanic
- 35% Hispanic
- 15% Black
- 2 cases in children
- No deaths



# Monkeypox in Connecticut

- 28 cases to date
- All cases are in persons who identify as men and almost all identify as LGBTQ+
- Median age 36 years, most are aged 20-49 years
- Cases have been reported in 5 Connecticut counties
- 50% identify as white race
- 32% identify as Hispanic or Latino ethnicity



# What does monkeypox look like?



Firm, deep-seated, well-circumscribed, sometimes umbilicated



# How do you get tested for monkeypox?

- You can only be tested for monkeypox if you have a rash
- People who should be tested for monkeypox:
  - Persons with a rash that is consistent with monkeypox
  - Persons with a rash that have had close contact with someone with monkeypox
  - Persons with a rash who have had close or intimate contact with someone in a social network where monkeypox is spreading
  - Persons with a rash that have traveled to a country where there are confirmed cases of monkeypox
- Testing is currently available at the State Public Health Laboratory and 5 commercial laboratories
- A healthcare provider will swab the lesions and send to the laboratory; results will come from the healthcare provider, not the laboratory



# What should you do if you have monkeypox?

- **Isolate** until rash has fully resolved, scabs have fallen off, and a fresh layer of intact skin has formed (this may take several weeks)
- **Do not leave the home** except as required for emergencies or follow-up medical care; do not travel during isolation
  - If medical care is needed, call to notify healthcare providers of diagnosis before seeking care
- **Avoid close physical contact** with others
  - Wear well-fitting source control (e.g., medical mask) when in close contact with others at home
  - Do not engage in sexual activity that involves direct physical contact
- **Do not share potentially contaminated items**, such as bed linens, clothing, towels, wash cloths, drinking glasses or eating utensils
- **Avoid close contact** with pets in the home and other animals

# What can you do to protect yourself?

- **Be aware** of new or unexplained rash on your body or your partner's body, including the genitals and anus.
- **See a healthcare provider** if you or your partner have recently been sick, currently feel sick, or have a new or an unexplained rash, and do not have sex
- **Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox**
  - Do not touch the rash or scabs of a person with monkeypox
  - Do not kiss, hug, cuddle or have sex with someone with monkeypox
  - Do not share eating utensils or cups with a person with monkeypox
- **Do not handle or touch** the bedding, towels, fetish gear, sex toys, or clothing of a person with monkeypox
- **Condoms may help** if rash/sores are confined to genitals/anus; however, condoms alone are likely not enough to prevent monkeypox
- **Limiting your number of sex partners** may reduce the possibility of exposure

# Are there treatments for monkeypox?

- Tecoviramat (TPOXX)
- Antiviral developed and approved to treat smallpox, can be used for monkeypox
- Treatment considerations:
  - Persons with severe disease (including bleeding, pain)
  - Persons at high risk of severe disease
- Is considered an investigational drug so patient must provide informed consent prior to starting medication
  - Protocol was recently streamlined by CDC
  - TPOXX is available in the state to help patients start treatment quickly



# What vaccines are available for monkeypox?

## JYNNEOS

- Vaccine currently being allocated to Connecticut
- Very limited supply
- Contains a live virus but cannot get monkeypox from the vaccine
- Administered as two subcutaneous injections four weeks apart
- A person is considered fully immunized 14 days after the second dose
- 18 years and older
- The effectiveness against monkeypox is supported by animal studies
- Adverse reactions include injection site reactions such as pain, swelling, and redness
- Safe for administration to people with HIV and atopic dermatitis

# What vaccines are available for monkeypox?

## ACAM 2000

- Identifying healthcare providers who are interested in administering this vaccine
- Live *Vaccinia virus* vaccine
- Administered as one percutaneous dose via multiple puncture technique with a bifurcated needle (providers need to be specially trained)
- Following a successful inoculation, a lesion (known as a “take”) will develop at the site of the vaccination; the lesion may take up to 6 weeks or more to heal
- The immune response takes 4 weeks
- Licensed by the FDA for use against smallpox; allowed for use against monkeypox under an Expanded Access IND, which requires informed consent along with submission of additional forms
- The effectiveness of ACAM2000 is supported by human clinical trials and animal studies
- Adverse reactions include injection site pain, swelling, and redness; fever; rash; lymph node swelling; and complications from inadvertent inoculation.
- Should not be given to persons with immune compromise (HIV) and other certain medical conditions

# How can monkeypox vaccine be used?

- **Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)**
  - Persons with a known exposure to a person with monkeypox
  - Up to 14 days after exposure to prevent illness
  - Best if given within 4 days of exposure
  - Referrals made through public health
- **Expanded PEP (PEP++)**
  - Persons with certain risk factors for exposure to monkeypox
  - Trying to identify persons who could have been exposed, even if they don't know for sure
- **Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)**
  - Used for someone who could be high risk for exposure to monkeypox (laboratory worker)
  - Not recommended for most people at this time



# Eligibility Criteria for Monkeypox Vaccine in Connecticut

Persons identified by public health as being close contacts to someone who has tested positive for monkeypox

Persons who meet the following criteria:

- Gay, bisexual, or other man who has sex with men, and/or transgender, gender non-conforming, or gender non-binary **AND**
- Age 18 or older **AND**
- Have had multiple or anonymous sex partners in the last 14 days

If eligible to be vaccinated, persons should especially consider getting vaccinated if:

- Your partners are showing symptoms of monkeypox, such as a rash or sores
- You met recent partners through online applications or social media platforms (such as Grindr, Tinder or Scruff), or at clubs, raves, sex parties, saunas or other large gatherings
- You have a condition that may increase your risk for severe disease (HIV or another condition that weakens your immune system, history of atopic dermatitis or eczema)

**Persons who have had monkeypox, likely have some protection against another infection and are currently not eligible to be vaccinated**

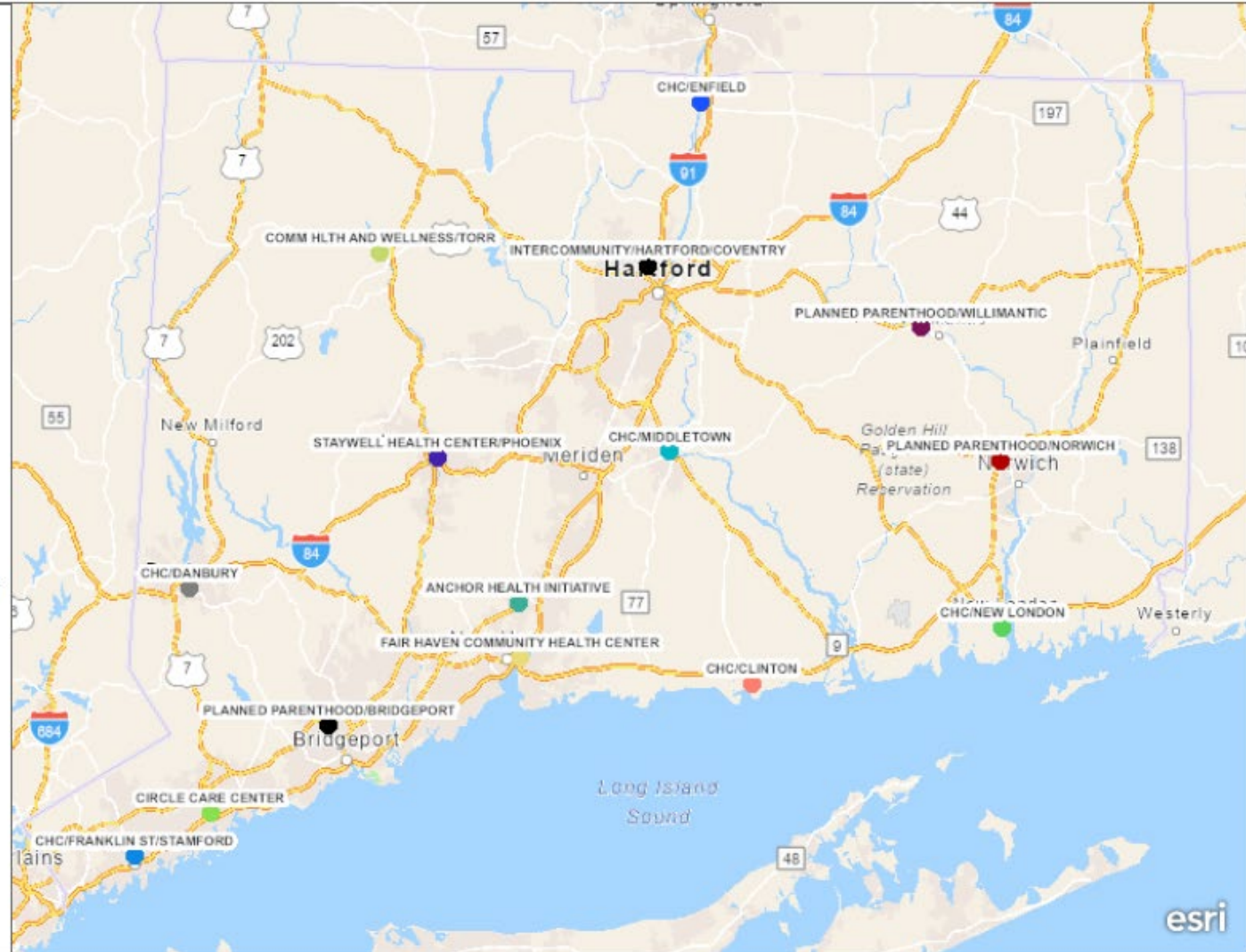
# Monkeypox Vaccine Network

(For the most up-to-date vaccine networking listing, please visit: [CT Monkeypox](https://www.ct.gov/dph/monkeypox))

## MPV

### MPX Vaccine Network

- ANCHOR HEALTH INITIATIVE
- CHC/CLINTON
- CHC/DANBURY
- CHC/ENFIELD
- CHC/FRANKLIN ST/STAMFORD
- CHC/MIDDLETOWN
- CHC/NEW LONDON
- CIRCLE CARE CENTER
- COMM HLTH AND WELLNESS/TORR
- FAIR HAVEN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
- INTERCOMMUNITY/HARTFORD/COVENTRY
- PLANNED PARENTHOOD/BRIDGEPORT
- PLANNED PARENTHOOD/NORWICH
- PLANNED PARENTHOOD/WILLIMANTIC
- STAYWELL HEALTH CENTER/PHOENIX





# Monkeypox Vaccine Timeline

## June 28

- Federal government announces phased allocation approach
- **Phase 1: 0 doses**

## July 15

- Notified of phase 2b allocation
- **Phase 2b: 1143 doses**

## July 25

- Distribution to 15 community clinics in Connecticut to ensure rapid access to vaccine for identified close contacts

*Coming soon!*  
*Phase 3 allocation*  
*TBA*

## July 8

- Notified of phase 2a allocation
- **Phase 2a: 635 doses**

## July 22

- **All available doses delivered to 4 hospital depots in Connecticut**

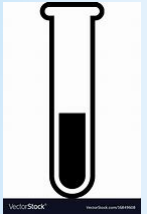
## Aug 1

- Implementation of expanded PEP++

# What DPH is Doing to Address Monkeypox



**Education-** Providing updated information to healthcare providers, community providers and the public through regular communications, webinars, dedicated monkeypox website



**Testing-** Continuing to offer monkeypox testing at the state public health laboratory, along with 5 commercial laboratories



**Treatment-** Facilitating rapid access to TPOXX by pre-positioning medication in the state



**Vaccine-** Implementing a network of clinics to ensure rapid access to vaccine for eligible persons in Connecticut



# Thank you!

For more information on monkeypox in Connecticut go to:

[CT Monkeypox](#)

Centers for Disease Control:

[Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#)