

Monkeypox Vaccine Strategy, Los Angeles County

Due to limited vaccine supply we are offering Jynneos vaccine in phases. A description of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Los Angeles County's Monkeypox Virus (MPV) vaccine strategy is provided below.

Phase 1 - Post-exposure prophylaxis for exposed persons

On June 28, HHS announced a [National MPV Vaccine Strategy](#) to vaccinate and protect those at-risk for MPV. The strategy includes an extension of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) eligibility in order to offer vaccine more widely to persons that may have had an exposure. Based on the national strategy, eligible populations are: (1) persons with close physical contact with someone diagnosed with MPV, (2) persons who know their sexual partner was diagnosed with monkeypox; (3) men who have sex with men (MSM) who have recently had multiple sex partners in a venue where there was known to be monkeypox or in an area where monkeypox is spreading.

LA County's Jynneos vaccine inventory is currently reserved for PEP in Phase 1. This includes eligible persons who need their first dose of PEP as well as those that need their second dose within the next couple of weeks. In alignment with the national strategy, persons confirmed to have intermediate or high-risk contact with a confirmed MPV case are being offered **Standard PEP**. For the current outbreak, PEP is being extended to certain populations with risk factors that place them at a higher risk of exposure even if they have not had documented exposure to someone with confirmed monkeypox; this is being referred to as '**Expanded PEP**'.

Risk factors

Data from the United Kingdom (UK) indicate that 98% of MPV cases in the UK were MSM; 60% had a recent sexually transmitted infection diagnosis; 44% reported group sex during the incubation period; and 44% reported more than 10 sex partners in the past 3 months. While MPV infection has not yet been identified in the transgender (TG) women population in LA County, some TG women may have intersecting social and sexual networks with MSM and may be eligible for PEP or Expanded PEP.

Based on this evidence, select groups at risk for MPV will be eligible for Expanded PEP. Importantly, the Expanded PEP plan aims to partner with community clinics that can ensure sustainable and equitable access to vaccine. Vaccine will be accessible across public and community sites in the County and, to the extent possible, integrated into routine clinical services for patients at high risk for MPV. Public Health will partner with Long Beach and Pasadena Health Departments to ensure availability of vaccination sites in these communities.

PEP and Expanded PEP Eligibility criteria

At this time, MSM and TG women in the groups below are eligible to receive PEP or Expanded PEP and will be invited to receive vaccine.

- PEP
 - Persons confirmed through public health investigation to have had [high- or intermediate-risk contact](#) with a confirmed MPV case

- Expanded PEP
 - Persons confirmed through public health investigation to have attended an event/venue where there was high risk of exposure to individuals with confirmed monkeypox virus through skin-to-skin or sexual contact. Public Health is coordinating with event/venue organizers to identify persons who may have been present at the exposure event. Public Health will either directly communicate to attendees or with the assistance of event/venue organizers notify them of their possible exposure and provide details on where to access the Jynneos vaccine if interested in receiving vaccine.
 - MSM or TG women presenting to STI and HIV clinics (DPH Health Centers and community clinics) with rectal gonorrhea or early syphilis infection in the past 3 months. These two STI can increase the biological risk of MPV transmission through genital sores. STI and HIV clinics will invite eligible patients to get vaccinated at the clinic. Note: Approximately 200 MSM are diagnosed with gonorrhea and early syphilis in Los Angeles County each week.
 - High risk cohorts identified by clinical staff in the LA County jail system.

PEP and Expanded PEP administration plan

Due to limited vaccine supply in LA County, PEP and Expanded PEP administration is being implemented in stages and **offered by invitation only**.

- Stage 1: standard PEP – **start date 5/27 by invitation from Public Health.**
- Stage 2: Expanded PEP based on confirmed exposure event – **start date 6/23 by invitation from Public Health.**
- Stage 3: Expanded PEP based on confirmed exposure event offered at additional DPH vaccination sites - **start date 7/2 by invitation from Public Health.**
- Stage 4: Expanded PEP for MSM and TG women with recent diagnosis of rectal gonorrhea and syphilis infection in the past 3 months - **anticipated start date 7/11 by invitation from HIV and STI providers.**
- Stage 5: Expanded PEP for a high risk cohort in the LA County jail system – **anticipated start date 7/13.**

Phase 2 – Second dose administration and further expansion of Expanded PEP - anticipated to begin in 1-2 weeks

The next federal allocation of Jynneos product for LA County is expected in the next 1-2 weeks (Phase 2). This allocation will be used to administer vaccine to persons requiring their second dose and to further expand vaccine access for additional groups at higher risk for monkeypox. Note, a small percentage of vaccine will remain in reserve for emergency purposes (~5%).

Planning for Phase 2 is underway. Vaccine will be distributed through various mechanisms to ensure equitable access to vaccine. Public Health will leverage partnerships with community clinics to expand vaccine access for Phase 2 eligible clients, as well as make vaccine available through pop-up clinics in select locations, Public Health Centers, and vaccination pods/sites.