



PROVIDER BULLETIN



COUNTY OF MONTEREY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

A Monterey County Health Department bi-monthly newsletter summarizing national, state, and local public health-related issues for county healthcare providers.

Important Contacts:

Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

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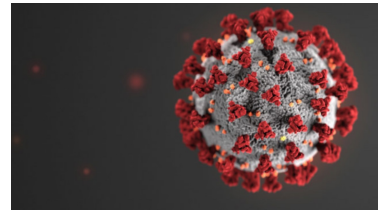
Subscriber's Corner

Communicable Disease Updates

COVID-19

CDC COVID-19 Updates

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides daily updates and guidance, including [a section specific to rural health care](#), a [Toolkit for Tribal Communities](#), and [a vaccine locator by state](#).



And remember, MCHD publishes updates to county COVID-19 data [here](#).

6 Reflections of the Pandemic

California's Public Health System published a blog series that focuses on six reflection systems during COVID-19. The blog talks about how some of the oldest hospitals in the state turned into hotbeds of innovation; and learned about mission drive teams of healthcare workers that endure the most daunting challenges to provide equitable care.

To visit the blog, click [here](#).

Health Advisory

Request for Continued Enhanced Surveillance of Monkeypox Virus Infection

Date: July 5, 2022

Contact:

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Current Situation

This Health Advisory provides updated information to the Monterey County Health Department's Health Advisory released May 24, 2022. Cases of monkeypox continue to be identified in several non-endemic countries including the U.S. As of July 1, 2022, there have been 460 cases of monkeypox virus infection reported among U.S. residents, with 95 being reported in California. There has currently been one confirmed case of monkeypox reported among Monterey County residents.

Monkeypox is a zoonotic illness endemic to several Central and West African countries. Disease symptoms include a characteristic rash, which is described as firm, well-circumscribed, deep-seated and umbilicated skin lesions. Thus far, cases in the U.S. have some notable features including:

- All cases have developed a rash.
- The rash has often begun in mucosal, genital, or perianal areas.
- The lesions have at times been scattered or localized to a body site rather than diffuse in nature.
- Lesions have sometimes been in different stages of progression.
- Not all cases have had classic prodromal symptoms.
- Presenting symptoms have included anorectal pain, tenesmus, and rectal bleeding associated with perianal lesions and proctitis.

Average incubation period has been 3 to 13 days. A person is considered infectious from the onset of symptoms through when lesions have thoroughly crusted and a fresh layer of healthy skin has formed underneath.

Recommendations

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Monterey County Health Department (MCHD) request that medical providers report and test

suspected cases of monkeypox virus infection as outlined below:

Suspect monkeypox virus infection in patients with suggestive history including:

- Close contact with a person or persons with a similar appearing rash or with a person who has received a diagnosis of confirmed or probable monkeypox, **and/or**
- Close or intimate in-person contact with persons in a social network experiencing monkeypox infection. This includes men who have sex with men (MSM) who meet partners through an online website, digital application (“app”), or a social event (e.g., a bar, bathhouse, or party).

Report suspected cases by phone to the Monterey County Health Department’s Communicable Disease Unit:

- During normal business hours: 831-755-4521.
- Outside of normal business hours: 831-755-5100 and ask for the Hazardous Materials Team; they will connect you with on-call public health staff.

Collect lesion swabs and submit to the Monterey County Public Health Laboratory:

○ Collect dry swabs of lesions using sterile nylon, polyester, or Dacron swabs with plastic or aluminum shafts:

- Vigorously swab or brush lesion with **two separate sterile dry swabs**.
- Break off swabs into separate 1.5- or 2-mL screw-capped tubes with O-ring or place each entire swab in a separate empty sterile container.
- Container may be **dry or contain viral transport media (VTM)**. No other type of transport medium is acceptable.
- Up to 3 different lesions should be sampled, preferably from different body sites. (This would result in 6 swabs total.)
- Please mark/label each set of 2 swabs with an identical number so they are easy to distinguish from separate lesion collections (e.g., Swab #1 from Left Thigh, Swab #2 from Left Thigh).
- Lesion crusts or scabs may be submitted **dry** in separate sterile containers.
- Store at 4°C if transferring to the Monterey County Public Health Laboratory within 24 to 72 hours; otherwise, store at -20 to -80°C.

○ Suspected cases must be reported to the Monterey County Health Department’s Communicable Disease Unit before submitting specimens to the Public Health Laboratory.

Use appropriate infection control procedures with patients presenting with suspected monkeypox:

- Patient should be placed in a single-person exam room with the door closed or in an airborne isolation room, if available. The patient should remain masked, as tolerated, and any exposed skin lesions should be covered with a sheet or gown.
- Healthcare personnel (HCP) should wear the following PPE: gloves,

gown, eye protection, and an N95 or equivalent. HCP should don PPE before entering the patient's room and use for all patient contact. HCP should remove and discard gloves, gown and eye protection and perform hand hygiene prior to leaving the patient's room; the N95 respirator should be removed, discarded, and replaced with a mask for source control (or respirator as required by facility protocols) after leaving the patient's room and closing the door.

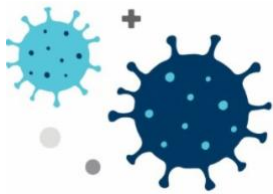
- Any EPA-registered hospital-grade disinfectant should be used for cleaning and disinfecting environmental surfaces. If a standard examination room was used, the exam room should not be used for at least 2 hours following the patient's departure from the room.
- Most patients have mild disease and recover without medical intervention.
- Please instruct patients who do not require hospitalization to isolate at home (<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/infection-control-home.html>) and that the Health Department will contact them with further instructions.
- Per CDC guidance, an investigational antiviral medication, tecovirimat (also known as TPOXX or ST-246, <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/treatment.html>) can be considered to treat severe disease or those at high risk for severe disease. Tecovirimat is available only at limited facilities that are able to carry out the requirements of the Emergency Investigation New Drug (EIND). Treatment may be facilitated by calling the Monterey County Health Department
- Jynneos vaccine can be considered for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) in people who have had a high- or intermediate-risk exposure to monkeypox to prevent or reduce severity of disease. PEP should be given, if possible, within 4 days of exposure to prevent disease but may still reduce severity of disease if given up to 14 days after exposure. Monterey County Health Department will conduct case and contact investigations for all reported monkeypox cases in Monterey County and can facilitate vaccination as PEP while supplies are limited.

For Additional Information

- Monterey County Health Department's Communicable Disease Unit: normal business hours - 831-755-4521; after hours - 831-755-5100 and ask for the Hazardous Materials Team. They will transfer you to the on-call public health professional.
 - Monterey County Public Health Laboratory: 831-755-4516.
 - CDPH Healthcare Provider Health Advisory: Managing Monkeypox Virus Infection in California, updated June 23, 2022: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Health-Advisory-Monkeypox-Virus-6-23-22.aspx>
 - CDC Monkeypox Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html>
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Trainings

Virtual Grand Rounds: Updates in COVID-19 and Monkeypox



Virtual Grand Rounds: COVID-19 Clinical Updates

**Tuesday, July 12, 2022
12:00-1:00pm**

Even as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we are now confronted by a new virus: monkeypox. Join us to hear from California State Epidemiologist Erica Pan, M.D., and Peter Chin-Hong, M.D., an infectious disease expert, from UC San Francisco. Dr. Pan will share the latest information about the state of COVID-19 and Dr. Chin-Hong will discuss the emergence of monkeypox as a global phenomenon, and as well as the epidemiology, signs and symptoms of this disease. To register, click [here](#).

Featured Presenters:



State of COVID-19 in California - Erica Pan, M.D., MPH, California State Epidemiologist and Deputy Director, California Department of Public Health, Center of Infectious Diseases



Emergence of Monkeypox- Peter Chin-Hong, M.D., Infectious Disease Specialist, University of California, San Francisco; Professor and Director of the Yearlong Inquiry Program, School of Medicine, UCSF

This event will be moderated by Kimberly Newell Green, M.D. As a reminder, Virtual Grand Rounds: COVID-19 Clinical Updates is a free and monthly series providing the latest patient management news and resources. The effort is a partnership between CMA and the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS), with the California Academy of Physician Assistants (CAPA) and the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California (OPSC).

We also invite you to share this invitation within your organizations, as this information is applicable to physicians, nurse practitioners and physician

assistants.

As a result of this activity, participants should be able to:

- Summarize the current epidemiology of COVID-19 in California
- Describe vaccination progress in California, including pediatric vaccines and boosters
- Assess the status of COVID variants
- Counsel patients on COVID-19 therapeutics and refer to appropriate centers of distribution
- Recognize the symptoms of monkeypox
- Counsel patients on methods of transmission of monkeypox
- Summarize the epidemiology of this emerging virus

Questions? Contact us! CovidRounds@cmadocs.org

Disclosure:

The following speakers disclose no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies: Kimberly Newell Green, M.D.; Erica Pan, M.D., MPH., Peter Chin-Hong, M.D.

All other planners, staff and others involved with this activity have reported no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

This activity has not received commercial support.

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the California Medical Association (CMA) and California Health and Human Services Agency. CMA is accredited by ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The California Medical Association designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

After the webinar you will be sent a survey. Upon completing the survey, you will be sent your CME certificate.

Click on the link to previous sessions of CMA Virtual Grand Rounds:

<https://www.cmadocs.org/webinars>.



IN
PARTNERSHIP
WITH



Chronic Disease Updates

Hypertension

Tools for Taking Control of Hypertension



High blood pressure is a leading risk factor for heart disease and stroke. Although cardiovascular disease death rates have increased across all demographic groups, African Americans and other minority groups continue to be disproportionately affected. As National High Blood Pressure Education Month wraps up, learn about evidence-based resources health centers can use beyond this month to increase awareness and address barriers in the communities most affected.

Million Hearts Program provides the following tools for taking control of hypertension:

1. Read **A Three Pillar Approach** to Addressing Hypertension to learn more about innovative practices Miami Beach Community Health Center implemented.
2. Use the **SMBP At-A-Glance Comparison Tool** to help your practice choose a home blood pressure monitor.
3. Check out the “**Live to the Beat**” campaign, which focuses on reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease among African Americans between the ages of 35-54.

Diabetes

Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support (DSMES) Billing- Free Webinar



Updated for 2022, this webinar will provide a background of DSMES reimbursement including an overview of the DSMT Benefit for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Beneficiaries with diabetes. A description of DSMT billing codes and reimbursement requirements for providing the service will be covered. Presenters will provide

an overview of the current state of telehealth and DSMT in addition to insights that can maximize your value and increase sustainability of your services.

The webinar offers one (1) continuing education credit for: nurses, dietitians, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, physicians, PAs, and nurse practitioners.

Please follow the instruction to access the webinar. Learners are highly encouraged to watch the on-demand webinar prior to joining the first live Q&A call. Billing codes table for diabetes related services that includes 2022 Medicare FFS rates is also attached for your reference. The webinar access will expire on 12/31/2022. Please share this information to your partners.

Instruction

1. Go to www.diabeteseducator.org and click the “My Learning” link – found under the ‘Sign In’ drop-down menu near the upper right.
2. Login, or if you are new to ADCES, sign-up. You will be directed to the “My Learning” portal.
3. At the bottom right of the page, submit your GE CODE: **JPK6MXC7** You will only need the code once.
4. Click “go” to enter the learning activity, or refresh the My Online Learning page, to see the activity listed in your ENROLLMENTS list. Click the title to begin.
5. You can return to the “My Learning” link at www.diabeteseducator.org whenever you want to log back into your learning activity. (No need to use the code again.)

The California Medical Association – Health Equity and Diabetes Prevention Webinar

The California Medical Association and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) are proud to present "*Break the Bias: Health Equity and the Importance of Screening and Referring for Diabetes Prevention*" webinar. This virtual program features experts sharing how to advance health equity by screening patients for prediabetes and referring them to the National Diabetes Prevention Program.

Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists (ADCES) and The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Collaboration Webinar

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health invites you to join a free virtual, three-day training on Diabetes Education Accreditation & Reimbursement Boot Camp on **July 12, 13, and 14, 2022, at 9:30 AM PT**. You will learn how to establish a DSMES program and/or improve and sustain your current program. Participants will also explore the National Standards and identify reimbursements pitfalls and discover ways to collaborate with billing departments to successfully receive reimbursements while gaining a better

understanding of the payers involved.

To register, please log in [here](#) and/or create an ADCES account.

Health Services Advisory Group Resources- Are Your Patients Prepared to Manage Diabetes in an Emergency?

As we live through a global pandemic and various natural disasters, emergency preparedness has taken on a whole new significance. While emergency situations are stressful and challenging for anyone, they can be potentially life-threatening to a person with a chronic medical disease, such as diabetes. Share this Diabetes Emergency Kit Checklist (PDF) by the American Association of Clinical Endocrinology in [English](#) or [Spanish](#) with your patients to prepare their kit. Advise them to keep it accessible and take it with them when travelling.

New ADCES Website for Diabetes Education Accreditation Program

ADCES launched a new website for DSMES resources. For more information, click [here](#).

Partnering with Patients to Prevent Diabetes- (Recorded Webinar)

The American Medical Association Insight Network (AMA) hosted a webinar on May 10th, 2022, about Partnering with Patients to Prevent Diabetes. Share Decision Making (SDM) has been defined as: “an approach where clinicians and patients share the best available evidence when faced with the task of making decisions, and where patients are supported to consider options, to achieve informed preferences”. The AMA Insight Network hosted this Fireside Chat with Tannaz Moin MD, Associate Professor of Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Kenrik Duru MD, Professor of Medicine at UCLA, discussed how to operationalize a physician-led team-based care approach incorporating clinical pharmacists in a discussion moderated by Kate Kirley, MD, Director of Chronic Disease Prevention, AMA. They presented their experience implementing a shared decision-making approach.

To view recorded webinar, click [here](#).

California Prevent Diabetes: Screen, Test, Act, Today (Recorded Webinar)

On June 30, 2022, the California Department of Public Health held a webinar about important changes to the 2022 National Diabetes Self-Management

Education Support (DSMES) Standards. During the webinar, participants discussed how to find information about useful tools and resources. In addition, presenters discussed about how to become an approved provider.

To view the recorded webinar, click [here](#).

To access, please use the following password: b2n#f3vg

Substance Use Prevention and Treatment

Tobacco

Kick It California

Kick It provides free tobacco cessation education, training, and technical assistance. Providers can utilize the website to securely refer patients and patients can utilize resources for quit services. To access site, click [here](#).

KIC Quit Vids Now Available in Spanish

After months in the making, Kick It California Quit Vids to quit smoking are available in Spanish. The videos are short and designed to be viewed as part of a full series,. The videos are available on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/kickitca and our website: kickitca.org/es/quit-vids.



Other

Health Coverage Update

CalAIM Section 1115 Asset Test Amendment Approved



The Department of Health Care Services received federal approval of California's two phases approached to increase, and eventually eliminate, assets limits for certain Non-Modified Adjusted Gross Income (Non-MAGI) Medi-Cal populations through the CalAIM Section 1115 Demonstration waiver amendment. Previously, assets were limited in the amount that individuals could own in order to retain their Medi-Cal eligibility.

New update goes into effective on July 1, 2022, and asset limits will be increased to \$130,000 per person and \$65,000 for each additional household member. The prior asset limits were \$2,000 per person and \$3,000 for two people. Beneficiaries will be able to keep additional resources, resulting in increased financial stability and improved quality of life. This increase in asset limits will make Medi-Cal coverage accessible to a larger number of potentially vulnerable Californians, including elderly and disabled individuals. The eventual elimination of the asset limit, to be implemented no sooner than January 1, 2024, will significantly improve access to Medi-Cal coverage.

To learn more, click [here](#).

Medi-Cal Coverage of Community Health Worker (CHW) Services is Effective July 1, 2022

It's finally here! Medi-Cal now covers community health worker (CHW) services, pursuant to 42 CFR Section 440.130(c), as of July 1st, 2022. This is coverage for various preventive services and on the written recommendation of a physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts within their scope of practice under state law.

CHW services may address issues that include, but are not limited to, the control and prevention of chronic conditions or infectious diseases; mental health conditions and substance use disorders; need for preventive services, perinatal health conditions; sexual and reproductive health; environmental and climate-sensitive health issues; child health and development; oral health; aging; injury; domestic violence; and violence prevention.

For the press release with information on billing codes and more on covered services, click [here](#).

Webinar Opportunities

Lead Me Home Summit on Homelessness

The Lead Me Home Continuum of Care of Monterey and San Benito Counties invites you to learn more about the recently released Lead Me Home Five Year Plan to Reduce Homelessness on how your community can work together to meet the objectives of the plan on **July 14th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm**. This summit on homelessness features relevant topics, like encampment solutions, how housing vouchers work, the release of the 2022 point-in-time report, and so much more.



Dhakshike Wickrema

Deputy Secretary of Homelessness at the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency

Dhakshike Wickrema, Deputy Secretary of BCSH, will be the summit keynote speaker. Dhakshike Wickrema was appointed Deputy Secretary of Homelessness at the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency by Governor Gavin Newsom in March 2022.

To register, click [here](#).

Resources

Aging and Disability Guide 2022-2023

The Aging and Disability Guide provides a full range of seniors' services and resources such as companion care, housekeeping services, meal preparation, doctors' appointments, personal care, overnight care, free legal help, and many more. The Aging and Disability Guide was designed to support navigating senior resources.

To find the guide, please click [here](#).

HRSA Launches New Maternal Mental Health Hotline

The U.S. Health and Human Services Department's of Health Resources and

Administration (HRSA) launched the Maternal Mental Health Hotline, a confidential, toll-free hotline for expecting and new moms experiencing mental health challenges.

The hotline aims to provide a safe space to get help with maternal depression and other mental and other mental health needs. It is accessible by phone or text in **English** and **Spanish** at **1-833-9-HELP4MOMS (1-833-943-5746)**. Those who contact the hotline can receive a range of support, including brief interventions from trained counselors who are culturally and trauma-informed, as well as referrals to both community-based and telehealth providers as needed.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Subscriber's Corner

If you would like to contribute to the next Provider Bulletin, please send in your requests by August 30, 2022.

Contact Krista Hanni for more information at
hannikd@co.monterey.ca.us

Thank you for reading this edition of the MCHD Provider Bulletin

If you need help or have any questions please contact our PIO, Karen Smith
KlahnK@co.monterey.ca.us

STAY CONNECTED

