



COUNTY OF MONTEREY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Date: August 4, 2022

To: Monterey County EMS Service Providers

From: Monterey County EMS Agency

Subject: Current Considerations and Decision Pertaining to the Application for Local Optional Scope of Practice for Monkeypox Vaccine Administration by Paramedics and EMTs

On August 1, 2022, the State of California issued a proclamation of a State of Emergency secondary to the outbreak of monkeypox. In response to this proclamation, the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) issued a memorandum outlining a process by which local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) may expand the local scope of practice to include authorization to administer vaccinations for monkeypox.

As of August 2, 2022, there were 1,135 confirmed monkeypox cases in California, including four (4) cases in Monterey County. Supplies of the monkeypox vaccine are currently extremely limited, and doses are allocated to local health departments by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Because of the low number of local cases in Monterey County compared with other jurisdictions, Monterey County receives a very small percentage of the available vaccine doses from CDPH. The Monterey County Health Department currently prioritizes vaccine administration to individuals who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with monkeypox, and to immunocompromised individuals with certain risk factors for exposure.

In light of these considerations, the EMS Agency has decided not to pursue the addition of the administration of the monkeypox vaccine to our local scope of practice at this time. The EMS Agency, in coordination with the Monterey County Health Department, will continue to monitor the situation to determine whether action may become necessary in the future.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the EMS Agency at EMSAdmin@co.monterey.ca.us or (831) 755-5013.