# Monkeypox Guidance for Alameda County

**Homeless Shelter and Services Providers**  
**August 23, 2022**  
[https://www.achch.org/monkeypox](https://www.achch.org/monkeypox)

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| **Stay informed about monkeypox and the current outbreak** | ● This outbreak is affecting many areas where monkeypox is not usually found. [Cases in the Bay Area](https://www.cdc.gov/monkeypox/cases-outbreaks.html) and throughout [California](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/GSD/Pages/default.aspx) are increasing and more cases are expected.  
● Monkeypox spreads from person to person through sustained, direct contact with sores, scabs, or body fluids; contact with contaminated items, like linens; and respiratory droplets during prolonged face-to-face contact. Monkeypox can spread during intimate contact, including sex. It is NOT as easily spread as COVID.  
● Anyone can get and spread monkeypox. But most cases are in men who self-identify as gay, bisexual, or who have sex with men (MSM). MSM with multiple sex partners are currently at greatest risk.  
● Vaccine supply for people at highest risk for monkeypox (especially men who have sex with men) is still extremely limited. Check the [Oakland LGBTQ Glenn Burke Center](https://www.ochdp.org/services/gbcc) and the [ACPHD monkeypox webpage](https://www.achch.org/monkeypox) for vaccine info, eligibility and availability. | ● Learn key concepts about monkeypox with [Alameda County Monkeypox webpage](https://www.achch.org/monkeypox). A good State of California Q&A document is [here](#).  
● Homeless and congregate-specific guidance is available: [CDC Website](https://www.cdc.gov/monkeypox/index.html).  
● Guidance is subject to change as we learn more; refer to the [California Department of Public Health website](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/GSD/Pages/default.aspx) and [CDPH homeless guidance](https://www.acphd.org/services/homeless-guide); the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov/monkeypox/index.html) and [FAQ](https://www.cdc.gov/monkeypox/faq.html) for the most current information.  
● [Posters](https://www.achch.org/monkeypox) and information on Monkeypox for staff and residents.  
● Share resources with shelter staff. |
| **Rapidly identify symptomatic persons for diagnosis and treatment.** | ● [The ACPHD Monkeypox webpage](https://www.achch.org/monkeypox) provides key information, including when to suspect monkeypox. Localized rashes in the mouth or around the genitals or anus might be only symptom and can look like a sexually transmitted infection.  
● Homeless services providers should immediately refer suspected cases in shelters or congregate settings to their primary care provider or a hospital ED for diagnosis. Alameda County is currently working on Isolation resources for homeless residents not able to isolate on their own – Reach out immediately to the ACHCH program if you | ● Connect symptomatic person to their own primary care provider clinic. Otherwise send to local hospital Emergency Department ASAP. Alameda Health System Highland ED 510-437-4559  
● Phone Health Care for the Homeless at 510-891-8950 (M-F 9-4pm) for guidance around a suspected or confirmed case in a shelter. |
| Screen residents to identify cases | • Alongside on-intake and daily COVID-19 symptom screening, begin asking for signs and symptoms of monkeypox.
• Anyone with symptoms of monkeypox, should see a health care provider for testing and treatment. Testing is only available through clinic access to special state laboratories. | • Develop a response plan if monkeypox is suspected.
• If staff or clients do not have a healthcare provider, then facilitate evaluation at a primary care clinic or call ACHCH at 510-891-8950. |
| Implement infection control | • Shelter and congregate living facilities should follow cleaning and disinfection instructions and guidance for congregate settings.
• Pay particular attention to handling laundry: Soiled laundry should be gently and promptly placed in a laundry bag and not shaken. Linens can be washed using regular detergent and warm water. Laundry staff should use masks and gloves until wash cycle is completed.
• Frequently clean and disinfect bathrooms and shared surfaces. Make soap and water and hand sanitizer available to staff and residents. | • Review CDC home disinfection guidance here:
• Ensure access to PPE and cleaning supplies for staff (including laundry and cleaning staff).
• Ensure access to handwashing supplies, cleaning supplies, and disinfectants to all residents. |
| Isolate people with monkeypox | • People with monkeypox are contagious from when symptoms start until all sores have healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed. This can take 2–4 weeks.
• People diagnosed with monkeypox should isolate in a private room. Try to make a dedicated bathroom available. Call the ACHCH program ASAP to get information about isolation for a suspected or confirmed case of monkeypox.
• If leaving the isolation room or when separating from others is not possible, people with monkeypox should:
  • wear a well-fitting face mask,
  • cover areas where rash or sores are present on their body
  • wash their hands frequently. | • Develop a plan for where people with monkeypox will stay, how they will be cared for and monitored, including access to a dedicated bathroom.
• For staff isolating at home, refer to CDC guidance.
• Learn about isolation of people with monkeypox. |
| Support contact tracing to identify and assess close contacts | ● When a highly suspicious or confirmed case of monkeypox occur, the Public Health Department conducts contact tracing to identify, assess, and monitor close contacts.  
● Close contacts should monitor their health, but do not need to stay home (quarantine).  
● Close contacts may want to get a monkeypox vaccination/pre-exposure prophylaxis. | ● Support the ACPHD’s contact tracing efforts to help identify and monitor close contacts; encourage people to cooperate.  
● Provide information for people who are contacts. |
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| Treat patients to minimize severe disease | ● There are no specific treatments approved by FDA for monkeypox, but antivirals available through CDC (e.g., TPOXX - Tecovirimat) might help those at risk of severe illness.  
● Healthcare providers can access treatment by coordinating with the Public Health Department monkeypox@acgov.org. | ● Encourage patients to talk with their provider about treatment.  
● Encourage providers to contact the ACPHD at monkeypox@acgov.org to access treatment. |
| Vaccinate close contacts and high-risk groups to prevent infection | ● A 2-dose vaccine for postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) is available for known close contacts and, as supply allows, adults with a high risk of exposure, and current priority and strategy is focused on first-dose administration.  
● The vaccine works best the sooner it is given; ideally, the first dose is given within 4 days of exposure. | ● Encourage prompt uptake of vaccine if recommended by the health department.  
● Check the Oakland LGBTQ Glenn Burke Center and the ACPHD monkeypox webpage for vaccine info, eligibility and availability. |
| Communicate the facts | ● Communicate with staff and clients about monkeypox and how it spreads through close physical (usually sexual) contact.  
● Stigma is harmful. It can create lost opportunities to detect and address infections in other populations and provide a false sense of security. | ● Combat stigma by providing fact-based information and emphasizing. Refer to CDC’s Reducing Stigma website.  
● Refer to Alameda County’s monkeypox webpage: https://acphd.org/communicable-disease/monkeypox/ |
| Find more information | ● Alameda County Monkeypox Website  
● CDC’s Preventing Monkeypox Spread in Congregate Settings and CDC Monkeypox website |  
Call Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless 510-891-8950  
or www.achch.org/monkeypox |