



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

November 4, 2022

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for your continued attention to monkeypox infections and for the related questions, comments and suggestions we have received from many of you. We write to make you aware of the relatively rare but real possibility of severe monkeypox infections and ask for your help in trying to prevent such severe outcomes in your patients.

While overall [Maryland monkeypox case numbers](#) are down compared to a few months ago, new cases continue to occur. In addition, while many patients with monkeypox recover with supportive care only, increasingly, more serious outcomes, including death, have been reported. On October 21, 2022 MDH announced the [monkeypox-related death](#) of an immunocompromised Maryland resident. Deaths have also been reported in other states. In addition, last week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a [report](#) documenting a range of severe manifestations of monkeypox in immunocompromised people, most of whom had undiagnosed or untreated HIV infection or AIDS.

In response, we recommend that all Maryland healthcare providers do the following to help prevent such severe outcomes:

1. **Strongly encourage your patients at risk for monkeypox to get vaccinated**. If your facility does not currently offer the JYNNEOS vaccine, you can contact your local health department for further guidance or assist your patient with pre-registration for vaccination via the following webpage:
<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OIDEOR/Pages/mpx-vax-preregistration.aspx>
2. **Test all sexually active patients with suspected monkeypox for HIV at the time of testing for monkeypox** unless the patient is already known to have HIV infection and is in care.
3. **Consider immediate treatment of HIV-infected patients who have monkeypox, especially those with advanced or poorly-controlled HIV, using tecovirimat (TPOXX)**. If your facility does not already have access to TPOXX and you are interested in obtaining TPOXX or other MPX therapeutics, complete the [MPX Therapeutics site enrollment form](#). Providers with additional questions or concerns can contact 410-767-6700 during business hours or, if after hours, call 410-795-7365 and ask for the on call physician.
4. **Ensure that HIV-infected patients with monkeypox are closely monitored and engaged in ongoing HIV care, including antiretroviral therapy as indicated**. If you

need assistance engaging your patient in care, please contact your local health department.

For additional resources, including information about vaccines, treatment and related CME opportunities, go to the [MDH monkeypox provider information](#) webpage.

Thank you for your continued attention to this important public health matter. We will continue to provide additional updates as needed. If you have questions, please call the MDH Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau at 410-767-6700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jinlene Chan" with a stylized flourish underneath.

Jinlene Chan, MD, MPH, FAAP
Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services