

## This is an official DHEC Health Advisory

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10522-DHA-07-06-2022-MPX

### **Updated Guidance for Monkeypox virus (MPXV) Evaluation**

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is providing this Health Advisory to update health care providers about the new availability of monkeypox virus (MPXV) testing, reporting requirements, and recommendations for obtaining DHEC clinical consultation for the evaluation of suspect MPX cases.

#### **Summary**

- **Testing for monkeypox virus (MPXV) infections has been expanded to commercial laboratories and within the Laboratory Response Network (LRN).**
- **Laboratories are required to report all MPXV test results. Both negative and positive test results are to be reported.**
- **Monkeypox is immediately reportable as a novel infectious agent. Clinicians are required to report positive results to their Regional Health Department.**
- **Healthcare providers are encouraged to consider MPXV testing for all people with rashes clinically suspicion for monkeypox.**

#### **Background**

Since May 2022, hundreds of individuals infected by monkeypox virus have been identified in many states. Current surveillance data provide evidence of person-to-person disease transmission which was not commonly seen in previous outbreaks, and case counts continue to rise. Reports of clinical cases with some uncharacteristic features have raised concern that some cases are not being recognized and tested. DHEC continues to work diligently to respond to this outbreak by increasing testing availability, educating clinical providers and the general public, and preparing a vaccination strategy.

#### **Expansion of MPXV testing capacity**

To address the testing capacity limitations, the CDC has expanded MPXV testing beyond the public health Laboratory Response Network (LRN) laboratories to five commercial laboratories: Aegis Science, LabCorp, Mayo Clinic Laboratories, Quest Diagnostics, and Sonic Healthcare. The commercially available tests will be definitive for MPXV testing; therefore, providers need not wait for confirmatory testing from CDC. Positive specimens from LRN and commercial laboratories will be sent to CDC for characterization. Specimens being sent to commercial laboratories for MPXV testing do not need to be routed through the DHEC Public Health Laboratory. LabCorp went live with MPXV testing on July 6, 2022 and may be available for processing specimens rapidly thereafter.

#### **Consultation with DHEC regarding testing for MPXV**

Clinical providers should continue to involve DHEC when monkeypox testing is being considered. DHEC's medical epidemiologists are available for consultation and will assist in the clinical and epidemiologic evaluation of suspect cases based on evolving national and international experience with cases associated with the current outbreak. DHEC staff will also provide public health monitoring of suspect cases and

their contacts. Providers should contact their regional public health office to initiate a monkeypox case consultation. Timely public health intervention is critical in controlling the spread of this virus. Confirmed monkeypox is immediately reportable by phone to a live person at the regional public health office, 24/7; however, DHEC urges providers to notify regional public health about their clinical suspicion when considering testing.

**Reporting of all MPXV results to DHEC**

DHEC requires that all MPXV laboratory results, including positive and negative results, be reported. Testing results can be reported electronically through existing ELR systems to DHEC. Please refer to the earlier HANs ([June 14, 2022](#) and [May 20, 2022](#)) and [CDC Monkeypox webpage](#) for the most up-to-date information on the current outbreak, including clinical presentation, case recognition, case definitions, and more.

**Resources for Additional Information**

- [U.S. Monkeypox 2022: Situation Summary](#)
- [Information for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [Clinical Recognition of Monkeypox](#)
- [Guide for specimen collection](#)

**DHEC contact information for reportable diseases and reporting requirements**

Reporting of **Monkeypox** is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2022 List of Reportable Conditions available at: <https://www.scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/Library/CR-009025.pdf>

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

<p align="center"><b>Regional Public Health Offices – 2022</b> Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region</p>			
<b>MAIL TO:</b>			
<p><b>Lowcountry</b> 4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600 N. Charleston, SC 29405 Fax: (843) 953-0051</p>	<p><b>Midlands</b> 2000 Hampton Street Columbia, SC 29204 Fax: (803) 576-2993</p>	<p><b>Pee Dee</b> 1931 Industrial Park Road Conway, SC 29526 Fax: (843) 915-6506</p>	<p><b>Upstate</b> 352 Halton Road Greenville, SC 29607 Fax: (864) 282-4373</p>
<b>CALL TO:</b>			
<p><b>Lowcountry</b> Allendale, Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, Orangeburg  Office: (843) 441-1091 Nights/Weekends: (843) 441-1091</p>	<p><b>Midlands</b> Aiken, Barnwell, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington, Newberry, Richland, Saluda, York  Office: (888) 801-1046 Nights/Weekends: (888) 801-1046</p>	<p><b>Pee Dee</b> Clarendon, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, Williamsburg  Office: (843) 915-8886 Nights/Weekends: (843) 409-0695</p>	<p><b>Upstate</b> Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union  Office: (864) 372-3133 Nights/Weekends: (864) 423-6648</p>
<p>For information on reportable conditions, see <a href="https://www.scdhec.gov/ReportableConditions">https://www.scdhec.gov/ReportableConditions</a></p>		<p><b>DHEC Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention &amp; Control</b> Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology 2100 Bull St • Columbia, SC 29201 Phone: (803) 898-0861 • Fax: (803) 898-0897 Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902</p>	

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- Health Alert** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- Health Advisory** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
- Health Update** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
- Info Service** Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.