August 9, 2022

UPDATED MONKEYPOX 2022 GUIDANCE FOR EMS PROFESSIONALS

This memo provides updated guidance to the correspondence distributed June 18, 2022 for EMS professionals encountering patients suspected or confirmed to have human monkeypox. As a reminder, Monkeypox 2022 is presenting differently than during prior outbreaks. The science is rapidly evolving, and EMS professionals should remain up to date on the latest recommendations.

Please see SanDiegoCountyEMS.com for current information. This includes:

- Monkeypox 2022: A Primer and 3I Tool for Emergency Medical Services Professionals, and
- County of San Diego Epidemiology & Immunization Services Branch Human Monkeypox resources.

The Monkeypox 2022 outbreak is expanding rapidly. On July 23, 2022, the World Health Organization declared monkeypox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Internationally, more than 30,189 cases of monkeypox have been detected in 88 countries.\(^1\) In California, 1,310 probable and confirmed cases have been identified.\(^2\) As of August 7, 2022, San Diego County reports 98 confirmed or probable cases.

As outlined in the June 18 guidance, EMS clinicians should follow Identify-Isolate-Inform (3I) procedures when encountering potential/confirmed monkeypox patients. Place a surgical mask on the patient and cover infectious lesions. Providers should don the appropriate PPE before contacting suspected cases: N95 respirator/equivalent (or higher level), gloves, gown, and eye shield protection. Avoid aerosol-generating procedures, including movements that can aerosolize viral particles from patients’ lesions on fomites. Following each patient encounter and transport, clean and disinfect all ambulance surfaces and equipment. EMS professionals should avoid exposure to clothing or materials that may have come into contact with an infectious person’s lesions.

Thank you for continuing to provide outstanding care to our patients.

Respectfully,

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cc: Eric McDonald, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer
    Wilma Wooten, MD, MPH, Public Health Officer
    Jeff Collins, Director
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\(^1\) Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, data as of August 8, 2022.

\(^2\) Data current as of August 4, 2022, as reported by the California Department of Public Health.