



MEMORANDUM

Date: August 12, 2022

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Lesher 
County Administrator

Re: **Monkeypox in Pima County**

This morning the 14th case of Monkeypox was identified in Pima County. Our Health Department has been working with the Arizona Department of Health Services as well as federal partners since July to develop a comprehensive approach to how we address this emerging public health threat in this community.

Attached please find a memorandum from Dr. Theresa Cullen detailing the Health Department's current efforts in this space. Please note that we find ourselves again, in a rapidly evolving situation where infections are increasing in the face of limited testing and vaccine capacity, as well as rapidly evolving guidance from the Centers for Disease Control. For these reasons, the strategic targeting of these precious assets will focus on populations at greatest risk.

JKL/dym

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Theresa Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Health Department

Date: August 12, 2022

To: Jan Leshner
County Administrator

From: Theresa Cullen, MD, MS 
Health Department Director

Re: Monkeypox Plan and Data

The first monkeypox (MP) case was diagnosed in Pima County on July 13, 2022. As of August 11, 2022, a total of 13 cases have been diagnosed. Arizona Department of Health Services (AzDHS) has designated Pima County Health Department (PCHD) as the MP hub for multiple counties, including Graham, Greenlee, Cochise, Santa Cruz and Yuma. As a result of this designation, PCHD has shared information and provided access to MP trainings with these other public health departments as well as Tribal Nations.

Education

PCHD has established a MP web page, including information for consumers as well as providers. PCHD has worked closely with the clinical as well as stakeholder community to ensure that appropriate communication messaging was developed and distributed. During the last 6 weeks, PCHD has also sent out two provider alerts that included the latest clinical information. On August 10, 2022, Tucson Medical Center (TMC) and PCHD co-hosted a webinar to provide information to the community.

Epidemiological Response

Since July 13, 2022, Epidemiologists have received 287 calls, including 24 from health care providers and 197 from the public. From these calls, PCHD epidemiologists have identified 188 high risk MP contacts. Epidemiology also provides case investigations for all positive cases as well as contact tracing. PCHD epidemiologists continue to provide 24/7 coverage for health care providers who contact PCHD, including discussion of clinical concerns. When appropriate, clinical cases are referred to our medical provider for further evaluation and recommendations.

Testing

Individuals who are concerned about MP can receive evaluation and testing at PCHD North clinic. Individuals may self-refer, be referred by an external provider, or be referred by PCHD staff. Since July, testing has been available through the AzDHS laboratory. Since then, tests have become available through commercial labs as well as continue to be available through the state lab. As of August 19, 2022, at least 62 tests have been collected and ordered through different health care systems in Pima County.

Vaccination

Vaccination is currently available at the three PCHD clinics. Pima County has received 1,050 vaccines and has given approximately 651 single immunizations. Full immunization consists of two vaccinations given at least 28 days apart. Additional vaccines will become available on August 15 and August 30, bringing the total number of vaccines distributed to Pima County to approximately 1,970 single doses.

People are initially evaluated through an online survey or through an assessment by epidemiology. As of August 9, 2,127 individuals have submitted the survey. 272 people have indicated a potential exposure. These people were immediately referred for vaccination. 1,144 people were considered eligible for expanded post exposure prophylaxis based on their responses and have also been referred for vaccination based on epidemiological criteria. Further information is available on our web site.

pima.gov/monkeypox

On August 10, the FDA issued new guidance for vaccinations, indicating the ability to get five doses from each single vial. Based on this new guidance, Pima County will have received approximately 6,625 doses based on this FDA approval once PCHD receive the two additional planned distributions. This will enable us to give a full vaccination series to approximately 3,340 more individuals over the next few months.

Based on this expanded availability, PCHD will be offering continued vaccination at our PCHD clinics, as well as weekly Vaccine Points of Distribution (PODS) beginning August 26. Eligible individuals will be notified through notices sent to survey participants, as well as epi evaluations.

Treatment

PCHD has been working with AzDHS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure access to appropriate treatment for MP. With pre-positioning of medication into Pima County, medication will be available in Pima County for dispensing to appropriate providers and health care organizations after consultation with PCHD. The available medication is classified as an investigational medication and will require patient consent. Spectrum Pharmacy has worked with PCHD and will function as the PCHD pharmacy hub for our county and other southern counties that need medication.

PCHD continues to provide community and provider support, testing, vaccination, coordination of treatment, and education. MP response will continue to be a critical part of the PCHD work for the near future.