July 15, 2022

Re: Monkeypox update for Pima County

Summary:

On July 12, 2022, the Pima County Health Department and Arizona Department of Health Services identified the first probable monkeypox case in Pima County. To date, all other cases in the state have been in Maricopa County. The case is awaiting confirmation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Pima County Health Department believes risk is low to the general population.

Monkeypox vaccine allocation to local health departments is in process. Through the ADHS “hub and spoke” vaccine allocation model, Pima County Health Department will serve as the vaccine hub for local health departments of the following counties: Cochise; Graham; Greenlee; Pima; Santa Cruz and Yuma. Vaccine allocation will occur in phases. As of July 13, 2022, Pima County has received 300 doses.

Background:

Monkeypox can be acquired through the bite or scratch from infected rodents or small mammals, or direct contact with body fluids or lesion material; human-to-human transmission is possible primarily through large respiratory droplets (prolonged face-to-face contact) or direct contact with body fluids or lesion material. Indirect transmission through contaminated objects is also possible. Early symptoms of infection with monkeypox are flu-like, including fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, exhaustion, and swollen lymph nodes. A rash or sores can also appear – either before, during, or after flu-like symptoms. Monkeypox can be treated with antiviral medicines and is highly controllable through simple precautions, including consulting a health care provider if displaying symptoms.

Resources:

Monkeypox Suspect Case Checklist for medical providers

Pima County Health Department up-to-date information for Monkeypox

Healthcare providers with questions can contact their local health department for more information. In Pima County, contact the Pima County Health Department Epidemiology Division at epi@pima.gov or 520-724-7797. Pima County Health Department Epidemiology staff are available to counties for question and referral assistance.

Southern Arizona region local county health departments (Cochise; Graham; Greenlee; Pima; Santa Cruz and Yuma) may contact Crystal.Rambaud@pima.gov or Kristin.Robinson-Lund@pima.gov at the Pima County Health Department regarding vaccine allocation.

For current CDC information and guidance, visit https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html

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