



May 24, 2022

Re: Consider monkeypox in the differential – transmission in multiple non-endemic countries

Summary:

Confirmed cases of monkeypox, a rare disease endemic in central and western Africa, have recently been reported worldwide during May 2022. As of May 20, 2022 one confirmed case has been identified in Massachusetts, and several additional case investigations are ongoing across the U.S.

No monkeypox cases have been identified in Arizona as of 5/23.

Recommendations:

Arizona healthcare providers should consider a diagnosis of monkeypox in patients who:

1. Present with an otherwise unexplained **rash** that could be consistent with monkeypox AND
2. Traveled, in the 30 days before onset, to a country or area where monkeypox has been reported OR
3. Report contact with a person or people with confirmed or suspected monkeypox, OR
4. Men who regularly have close or intimate in-person contact with other men.

Notify Pima County Health Department at 520-724-7749, regarding suspected monkeypox cases and isolate the patient in a negative air pressure room, if available, or a private room.

A combination of standard, contact, and droplet precautions should be applied in all healthcare settings, when a patient presents with fever and vesicular/pustular rash. Infection control guidelines, including personal protective equipment recommendations, can be found in the references section.

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.

Monkeypox illness typically include fever, chills, lymphadenopathy, and a rash often beginning on the face and then spreading to other parts of the body. The rash involves vesicles or pustules that are deep-seated, firm or hard, and well-circumscribed; the lesions may umbilicate or become confluent and progress over time to scabs. Lesions may be disseminated or located on the genital or perianal area alone, and may also involve the hands and soles. Some patients may present with proctitis, and their illness could be clinically confused with a sexually transmitted infection (STI) like syphilis or herpes, or with



varicella zoster virus infection. The illness typically lasts for 2–4 weeks and has a fatality rate between 1 and 11%.

References:

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox>

<https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2022/han00466.asp>

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/treatment.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/outbreak/current.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/clinical-recognition.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/infection-control-hospital.html>

Thank you,
Pima County Health Department

***Note // To register for the Pima County Health Alerts listserv, please email HEOC@pima.gov.
Visit the following links for Regional, State, and National level health alerts //***

- [Email Updates | Health Alert Network \(HAN\) \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [AzHAN \(azdhs.gov\)](#)
- [AzCHER Member Information & Registration Links](#)

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