



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

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SUSAN KANSAGRA MD, MBA • Assistant Secretary for Public Health

Division of Public Health

Attention HIV medical providers, case managers, health departments and others  
who provide services to PLWH

We at the Division of Public Health want to make you aware that cases of mpox are on the rise again in North Carolina. Between November 1, 2023, and February 6, 2024, there have been 16 cases of mpox reported in 5 counties, the majority in the Charlotte region. 100% of the cases have occurred in men, 88% in Black/African Americans, and 75% in people living with HIV (PLWH). No international travel has been reported. *Updated mpox case counts are posted monthly and can be accessed here:* [MPOX | NCDHHS](#)

Of particular concern, **53% of ALL diagnosed cases in our state are among people who are living with HIV (PLWH)**. People with immunocompromising medical conditions including HIV, and particularly those with advanced HIV disease, are at increased risk of severe mpox infection and death.

Clearly, this is an important population to reach with mpox education and vaccination, so we are reaching out to ask for your help in talking with the patients you serve.

### Vaccinations

When we first began responding to the mpox outbreak in 2022, we had limited supplies of the JYNNEOS vaccine; that has now changed. Without a doubt, for the population of PLWH who may encounter mpox during sexual activity, it is a missed opportunity not to have vaccine on site with their medical providers. For that reason, we have created several resources we hope will support you in your goal to keep your patients healthy. Vaccines are currently available under the HHS Mpox Vaccination Program.

- Medical providers can now sign up to receive mpox vaccines by completing the Mpox Vaccine Enrollment and Capacity Survey [here](#).
- Once approved, providers can request JYNNEOS vaccine [here](#).
- Providers interested in becoming an approved provider can also reach out to [kandice.oakley@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:kandice.oakley@dhhs.nc.gov).
- Our Immunization Branch monitors the shelf life of all delivered vaccine.
- Two doses of vaccine, given 28 days apart, provide the best protection against mpox. If the second dose is not given during the recommended period of 28 days, there is no

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LOCATION: 225 N. McDowell St., Raleigh, NC 27603

MAILING ADDRESS: 1902 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1902

www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-733-7301 • FAX: 919-715-1020

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need to restart or add doses, it can be administered at the earliest opportunity. It is also important for people to know that even one dose is better than remaining unvaccinated.

- While mpox is not usually fatal, it can be extremely painful – several patients have expressed that it was the worst pain they had ever experienced.

#### Additional Notes

- Please assure that front desk/receptionists are aware that clients may call for vaccine and that a protocol is established for those seeking vaccine to get them in as quickly as possible. We have received some reports that patients are encountering challenges in trying to access vaccine.
- Information about mpox and assistance with communication can be found here: [Mpox Communications Toolkit | NCDHHS](#)
- Some PLWH who are being diagnosed with mpox are not in care or virally suppressed. We will work to reach out to those clients to link them to care; please work to reach out to any clients or patients you have who have not been seen recently who may fit the demographic for those currently being diagnosed with mpox.
- Demographics of those diagnosed with mpox in North Carolina can be found here: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/mpox>
- Work to increase social media and other communication efforts to share mpox vaccine opportunities (clinic times/walk-ins/evening clinics/wellness events, etc.).
- Mpox pocket guides are available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) languages and may be requested by emailing [Noah.Riley@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Noah.Riley@dhhs.nc.gov)