



State of Utah

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Good Afternoon,

I would like to increase awareness of monkeypox virus (MPX) infections for all Utah providers. I encourage you to consider this infection in your diagnoses when you see patients with a new rash. Multiple Utahns tested positive for MPX recently and the numbers continue to climb globally, nationally, and in UT. The majority of UT positives reported a delayed diagnosis; visiting clinics multiple times before being tested for MPX. This delay in testing not only results in delayed care and patient isolation, but also suggests other people with monkeypox are not getting tested appropriately. Currently, infections are occurring in small clusters of people. However if patients go undiagnosed, infections are likely to grow exponentially and we will be dealing with MPX for years to come.

Globally, MPX infections are occurring predominately in men who have sex with men (MSM). However, any type of close contact with someone with MPX lesions can lead to transmission. We encourage you to consider MPX when you see MSM patients with a new rash. While the rash is classically described as firm, deep-seated, well circumscribed, umbilicated vesicles, many different types of rash have been observed in the current outbreak. We encourage you to review CDC's presentation [Monkeypox: Updates about Clinical Diagnosis and Treatment](#), which includes images of different monkeypox rashes and detailed clinical guidance and treatment options.

If you have a patient who you suspect has monkeypox, collect swabs from the lesions following the instructions attached. We expect clinical testing to be available in the next few weeks, in the meantime, arrange testing at the Utah Public Health Laboratory by contacting your local health department during business hours or the 24-hour phone for after hours reporting (1-888-EPI-UTAH).

Thank you for all the work you do. I speak on behalf of all Utahns when I say we are deeply indebted to all of you for the long hours and many struggles you go through to keep us healthy.

Sincerely,

Leisha Nolan

Dr. Leisha Nolan, MD PhD
State epidemiologist
Utah Department of Health and Human Services

Phone numbers for local health departments:

Local Health Department	Daytime Phone
Bear River	435-792-6427
Central	435-896-5451
Davis County	801-525-5220
Salt Lake County	385-468-8888
San Juan	435-587-3838
Southeast	435-636-1166
Southwest	435-668-0342; 435-359-8407
Summit	435-333-1500
Tooele	435-277-2310; 435-277-2311
TriCounty	435-247-1177
Utah County	801-851-3000
Wasatch	435-657-3232
Weber-Morgan	801-399-7252