LENAWEE COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

HEALTH INFORMATION FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS
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Monkeypox in Michigan - Clinical Considerations

On June 29, 2022, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued a press release announcing the first probable monkeypox case in Michigan: https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/inside-mdhhs/newsroom/2022/06/29/monkeypox

Healthcare providers should be alert for patients who have rash illnesses consistent with monkeypox.

Current Outbreak:

Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus (MPV). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are tracking multiple cases of MPV infections that have been reported in several countries that do not normally report MPV. Since the beginning of the current global outbreak, 5,323 MPV cases have been confirmed in 52 countries, including the United States. The CDC reports that there are currently 605 monkeypox/orthopoxvirus confirmed cases in 36 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

Signs and Symptoms:

MPV symptoms usually start 1-2 weeks after exposure to the virus and can include fever, chills, malaise, headache, muscle aches, lymphadenopathy, and rash. Lymph nodes may swell in the neck (cervical & submandibular), armpits (axillary), or groin (inguinal) and occur on both sides of the body or just one. The rash often 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. These lesions can appear on the face, inside the mouth, and on other parts of the body, like the hands, feet, chest, genitals, or anus. The illness typically lasts 2-4 weeks.

Transmission:

MPV can spread from person-to-person through direct contact with the infectious rash, scabs, or body fluids. It also can be spread by respiratory secretions during prolonged, face-to-face contact, or during intimate physical contact, such as kissing, cuddling, or sex. Touching items (e.g., clothing, linen, or towels) that previously touched the infectious rash or body fluids is another way monkeypox spreads. Monkeypox can spread from the time symptoms start until the rash has fully healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed. People who do not have monkeypox symptoms cannot spread the virus to others.

Suspect Cases:

It is important to note that anyone can contract and spread monkeypox, but early data from this outbreak suggest that men who have sex with men make up a high number of initial cases. If MPV is suspected in any patient, providers should consult their local health department or MDHHS at 517-335-8165 to coordinate specimen collection and testing. Due to the often atypical presentation of MPV in this outbreak, we are encouraging clinicians to have a high level of suspicion for MPV, especially in persons with reported risk factors within the three weeks before onset, including travel history to areas with MPV cases or contact with a symptomatic person.

Countermeasures:

There are no treatments specifically for MPV infections. However, MPV and smallpox viruses are genetically similar, which means that antiviral drugs and vaccines developed to protect against smallpox may be used to prevent and treat MPV infections. Antivirals, such as tecovirimat, may be recommended for people who are more likely to get severely ill, like patients with weakened immune systems. Providers should consult their local health department or MDHHS at 517-335-8165 to coordinate procurement of vaccines and antivirals.

Additional Information:

https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/index.html

https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/hcp/index.html

https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/infection-control-healthcare.html

https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/index.html

This alert is also posted on the Lenawee County Health Department website at :
http://www.lenawee.mi.us/187/Health-Department then click on *SERVICES* and then *INFORMATION FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS .*