

Monkeypox Vaccination Guidance

PLEASE REPORT ALL MONKEYPOX EXPOSURES AND CASES TO NDDHHS DISEASE CONTROL IMMEDIATELY BY CALLING 701.328.2378/800.472.2180

The North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (NDDHHS) is receiving allocations of JYNNEOS™ vaccine to help slow the [spread of monkeypox in the U.S.](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is allocating doses to states based on monkeypox epidemiology and population. ([Current North Dakota Case Count](#))

This document describes groups that are eligible for vaccination in North Dakota.

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PREP)

Persons eligible for the monkeypox vaccine as PREP include anyone who is a:

1. Laboratorian performing research or diagnostic testing for orthopoxviruses*
2. Health care worker caring for or likely to be exposed to patients with monkeypox*
3. Man who has sex with other men
4. Person who engages in sex work or exchanges sex for food, money, substances, shelter, etc.
5. Person experiencing homelessness
6. Sexual partner of people with the above risks
7. Person who anticipates being at risk for monkeypox exposure in the future

*At this time, most clinicians, health care workers and laboratorians are NOT recommended for PREP vaccination because adequate PPE is readily available. Regardless of whether they get PREP, clinicians and laboratorians should use recommended infection control practices.

If vaccine supplies are limited for PREP, further prioritization may be given to individuals who meet at least one of the following:

1. Has HIV or other immune-compromising conditions**
2. Has had unknown and/or multiple sex partners in the last 14 days
3. Attended venues or events where monkeypox spread has been identified
4. Has had a sexually transmitted infection in the past year

**Immune-compromising conditions: leukemia, lymphoma, generalized malignancy, solid organ transplantation, therapy with alkylating agents, antimetabolites, radiation, tumor necrosis factor inhibitors, high-dose corticosteroids, being a recipient with hematopoietic stem cell transplant in the past two years

Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP):

PEP vaccination should be considered when someone meets the following criteria:

1. Person has had at least one of the following exposure characteristics to a person with confirmed or probable monkeypox as defined by CDC's Case Definitions for Use in the 2022 Monkeypox Response (www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/case-definition.html):
 - a. Unprotected contact (generally skin to skin): between a person's skin or mucous membranes, lesions, or bodily fluids from a patient. This could include any sexual contact, splashes of patient saliva to the eyes or oral cavity of a person and/or ungloved contact with a patient.
 - b. Contaminated materials: contact with materials contaminated or in contact with lesions. This could include sharing clothing, sleeping in the same bedding, or sharing the same towel. A health care worker's clothing may also become contaminated during patient care (bathing, turning, etc.) if a gown is not worn.
 - c. Face-to-face: being near a person or within 6 feet of a person for 3 or more hours without using a surgical mask.
 - d. Aerosols: being within 6 feet of a person or patient during any procedures that may create aerosols from oral secretions, skin lesions, or resuspension of dried exudates (as when shaking dirty linen), without wearing an N95 or equivalent respirator and eye protection.
 - e. A person identified by public health as being a part of a specific situation where transmission has been documented (e.g., cases associated with a bath house, party).
 - f. Other exposure that may warrant consultation for PEP.
2. Person's last date of exposure is within 14 days.
 - a. Vaccine given within 4 days from the date of exposure may prevent onset of the disease.
 - b. If given between 4–14 days after the date of exposure, vaccination may not prevent infection, but may decrease severity of illness.

Offer Other Services

When possible, monkeypox vaccination should occur along with other sexual health services, including testing for sexually transmitted infections and prescribing HIV PrEP. If services are not available in your area, consider [home testing](#). Healthcare providers should also consider administering other vaccines, including hepatitis A and MenACYW, at the same time.

Please visit the [CDC](#) and [NDDHHS](#) websites for more information on monkeypox.