



Communicable Disease Branch Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) and Monkeypox Monthly Key Points

September 13, 2022

The North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Communicable Disease Branch will be releasing key points that includes information discussed on the monthly Tuesday Local Health Department call. Please use the information below as a summary of the topics presented on the call. As guidance changes, please use the most recent information provided. For questions, contact the NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch 24/7 Epidemiologist on Call at **919-733-3419**.

Important Updates

Available online at <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/cd/coronavirus.html>

- **New:** NCDHHS LHD Monthly Webinar 9 13 2022.pdf

Links

- **Video recording** <https://vimeo.com/749570822>

Monkeypox Communications Toolkit

- Toolkit: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/monkeypox/monkeypox-communications-toolkit>

CHW Program Taylor Norris (already heard from Kathy)

- Community Health Worker Deployment to At-Risk Areas: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/chw-onepager-2021-1-11/download>

Question & Answer

Q. Can you speak to co-administration of Jynneos and COVID vaccine?

A. Guidance on co-administration can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/interim-considerations/jynneos-vaccine.html#:~:text=JYNNEOS%20vaccine%20is%20licensed%20as,injection%20volume%20of%200.5mL>.

COVID-19

Q. Why didn't the FDA authorize the Omicron adapted shot to be used for primary series vaccination?

A. The studies were not done on the omicron booster as a primary series, so it could not be authorized as such.

Q. I just want to verify that it doesn't matter if you have had a previous booster or 2nd booster, if age criteria are met you are still eligible for the bivalent booster.

A. The Omicron booster requires that the person has already received the primary series vaccination. If a booster was given, the Omicron booster should be not be given until at least 2 months after that.



Q. As the transition from CVMS to NCIR moves forward, does NCIR plan to add an access point for COVID vaccine recipients who lose their documentation, rather than relying on LHDs to provide this?

A. We are looking at the options for recipients to get their vaccine data, but in the meantime, we continue to make sure the COVID vaccine data is in CVMS for people to access even if it was entered into NCIR

Q. Regarding schools and serial antigen testing, are kids meant to be kept home until they can demonstrate two negative tests 24 hours apart?

A. In a person with symptoms, a negative test is defined as either (1) a negative PCR/molecular test or (2) a negative antigen test if the person has a low likelihood of SARSCoV-2 infection. See [CDC antigen algorithm](#) for interpretation of antigen tests. It is recommended, however, that a negative antigen test in a symptomatic person is followed by a PCR test or repeat antigen tests every 2-3 days while symptomatic.

A negative antigen result for a symptomatic person may not need confirmatory testing if the person has a lower likelihood of SARS-CoV-2 infection. Factors that might indicate a lower likelihood of infection include, living in an area where the [COVID-19 Community Level](#) is low **and** no known [close contact](#) with someone infected with SARS-CoV-2.

See <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/media/1404/download?attachment> for additional information.

Monkeypox

Q. Who do you contact if you need updates to the vaccine supply webpage?

A. You can reach out to PHPR.SNS@dhhs.nc.gov to have vaccine site finder information updated.

Q. Are there plans to have a TPOXX availability webpage?

A. We are working on a TPOXX site finder list as well and should have that up on the website soon.

Q. What is the url for ReadyOp (Monkeypox Supply Chain Support Request Form)?

A. <https://nc.readyop.com/fs/4dDS/7bbd>

Q. As close gatherings and sexual activity are relatively common on college campuses, do we have any concerns about monkeypox spreading on college campuses. Any statistics on monkeypox among students?

A. We have been sharing this CDC resource for college settings.

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/resources/toolkits/community-work-school.html>

Q. Is there any data on how long monkeypox virus can live on surfaces, bedding, cloth, etc?

A. There isn't much current data, however, CDC did publish an article in August:

https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/28/10/22-1047_article, which states that under certain conditions, the virus can live for ~15 days. Non-porous surfaces are more likely be contaminated for longer periods of time. It is important to note that virus decays over time and is deactivated with appropriate disinfection.

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

Q. Hospital pharmacy in our area is asking about low dead space volume syringes due to not getting 5 doses out of each vial. Are these available also?

A. Many are not getting 5 doses from the vial. We know this is a problem. If they have supplies that can be used, we ask they use them and record the doses they can't get (ie 2, if they only get 3 doses) as unused.



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

**Division of Public Health
Communicable Disease Branch**

Q. For the monkeypox equity vaccine allocations, is there certain criteria we'll need to meet for community events?

A. We are still waiting for more CDC guidance on the specific equity allocations, so more information to come. In the meantime, we encourage you to reach out if you are interested in an event and feel free to fill out the request form - <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/618908b6cf2b4817bda6d726d6484dad>