



Department
of Health



March 23, 2023

Dear Colleague,

Last spring and summer, we experienced the sudden, rapid transmission of mpox virus in multiple countries around the world. New York State (NYS), particularly New York City (NYC) and the downstate region of the state, had among the highest number of mpox cases in the United States. Community members responded to prevention messaging and the availability of the JYNNEOS vaccine, which dramatically slowed the spread. Currently, cases in NYS and nationally are at their lowest levels since the outbreak began.

During this time of limited transmission, the public health community has an opportunity to make substantial gains in building up community protection, especially among populations disproportionately affected by the outbreak. These populations include cisgender and transgender gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men (MSM) and people in their sexual networks, particularly in the Black and Latino communities; people who are immunocompromised, including people living with HIV; and people who have been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the past year.

Beginning this spring and continuing throughout the summer, **the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) will engage in robust sexual health communication and engagement activities to reach communities and individuals who are encouraged to receive the mpox vaccine.** The campaign will highlight mpox vaccination as an important sexual health service and encourage all New Yorkers to prioritize their sexual health. More information and resources related to this campaign are forthcoming. The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) will also be launching a sexual health campaign and related engagement activities.

We continue to encourage all providers that offer sexual health and HIV services to offer mpox vaccination, counseling, screening, testing, and treatment services alongside other routine services. Doing so will help to ensure continued health care capacity and patient access to services, enable health departments to conduct disease surveillance, and ultimately improve patient outcomes. It will also help to normalize and destigmatize mpox and to build and sustain community trust.

Recent mpox developments

We are excited to share some recent developments that support continued and expanded efforts to increase JYNNEOS vaccination coverage.

Firstly, **NYS recommends that providers follow the standard regimen approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration: a subcutaneous route of administration with an injection volume of 0.5mL.** During the public health emergency, an alternative regimen—an intradermal route of administration with an injection volume of 0.1mL—was authorized for adults ages 18 and older to increase the number of available vaccine doses. However, NYSDOH does

not currently have concerns about available vaccine supply and recognizes that the subcutaneous regimen may be more acceptable to vaccine recipients and vaccinators. The [JYNNEOS provider agreement](#) has been updated to include this flexibility.

Secondly, NYS has enacted regulations that add mpox to the list of STIs in the New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations (NYCRR). This ensures that adolescents under the age of 18 can access mpox vaccination, testing, and treatment services without parental or guardian consent. This action further enables mpox services to be provided alongside other STI prevention and care services.

How to access mpox vaccine and resources

To increase the number of places New Yorkers can get vaccinated against mpox, NYS is making the JYNNEOS vaccine more available. Providers outside NYC who would like to request JYNNEOS vaccine, and providers with questions about NYSDOH's mpox campaign efforts, can email mpox@health.ny.gov or visit the NYSDOH's [mpox webpage](#).

New York City providers should email poxxvax@health.nyc.gov to order vaccine and for questions about vaccination. For questions about mpox testing, care, and treatment, NYC providers can call the NYC Health Department's Provider Access Line at **866-692-3641**. Providers can also visit the NYC Health Department's [mpox webpage](#) for providers.

Looking ahead

While the future of mpox remains unclear, building protection against mpox and prompt diagnosis and care now will help prevent surges in cases and continue to build trust within communities. With your help, we can provide individuals who have not yet received the JYNNEOS vaccine with protection and peace of mind, and give New Yorkers a safer, fun summer. We look forward to your partnership with these efforts in the coming months and beyond.

Sincerely,

Joseph Kerwin
Director
AIDS Institute
New York State Department
of Health

Sarah L. Braunstein, PhD MPH
Assistant Commissioner
Hepatitis, HIV, and Sexually Transmitted Infections
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene