



## Health Alert Network Message 22-29: Update for Louisiana Clinicians on Expanded Eligibility for JYNNEOS Vaccine and TPOXX Availability

Origination Date:  
August 31, 2022

Revision Dates (List All Revision Dates):

### Update for Louisiana Clinicians on Expanded Eligibility for JYNNEOS Vaccine and TPOXX Availability

#### Expanded Eligibility for JYNNEOS Vaccine

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has expanded the eligibility criteria for JYNNEOS vaccine (monkeypox vaccine):

**The eligibility criteria for monkeypox vaccination now include:**

- **Gay/bisexual men or transgender people who are sexually active with more than one partner.**
- **Anyone who is at high risk of monkeypox exposure.** This includes (but is not limited to) people who:
  - Are HIV positive or receive medicines to prevent HIV infection (PrEP)
  - Are experiencing homelessness
  - Use IV drugs
  - Give or receive money or other goods in exchange for sex
  - Have significant skin-to-skin contact with others in a social or sexual venue
  - Work at establishments where sexual or intimate activity occurs (e.g., bathhouses, saunas, sex clubs, hotels)
- **Clinicians or laboratory staff who are at high risk of occupational exposure**
- **Anyone who has been determined to be at high risk by a healthcare provider or public health official**

Vaccination following a known exposure to monkeypox to help prevent illness from monkeypox virus (Post-exposure prophylaxis or PEP) continues to also be available. Individuals who are eligible for PEP are identified by LDH epidemiologists during case investigations. These individuals will be contacted by public health staff and referred to parish health units for PEP vaccination.

***Important note:*** *Anyone can contract monkeypox and the current eligibility criteria are only limited to the above groups because they are most at risk based on the diagnoses we have seen to date. However, the criteria will be expanded as additional vaccine becomes available and/or individuals from other groups are diagnosed.*

Locations that are administering vaccines can be found [here](#). If you are a clinical provider who serves individuals at increased risk as described above and you would like to administer

JYNNEOS vaccine in your clinical setting, please contact to the [LDH Regional Immunization Consultant](#) for your area to request doses.

### **Monkeypox Treatment: TPOXX Available for Prescribing by Louisiana Clinicians**

Tecovirimat (also known as TPOXX or ST-246) is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treating human smallpox disease caused by *Variola virus* in adults and children. Its use for other *Orthopoxvirus* infections, including monkeypox, is not approved by the FDA. However, CDC has an [expanded access Investigational New Drug application](#) (EA-IND) to allow access to and use of TPOXX to treat monkeypox in adults and children of all ages. LA prescribers must complete and return all required EA-IND protocol documentation to CDC.

#### ***Treatment Consideration***

TPOXX (tecovirimat) may be considered for treatment in people infected with *Monkeypox virus*:

- With severe disease (e.g., hemorrhagic disease, confluent lesions, sepsis, encephalitis, or other conditions requiring hospitalization)
- Who are at [high risk of severe disease](#)
- With aberrant infections involving accidental implantation in eyes, mouth, or other anatomic areas where *Monkeypox virus* infection might constitute a special hazard (e.g., the genitals or anus)

If clinicians require assistance in obtaining TPOXX for a patient for whom it is indicated, please call the 24-hour ID-Epi hotline at 800-256-2748.

TPOXX can also be pre-positioned at health care facilities in Louisiana. If interested in pre-positioning TPOXX at your health care facility please contact [Andrea.Salinas@la.gov](mailto:Andrea.Salinas@la.gov).