

**August 4, 2022**

**From: Kansas Department of Health and Environment – Division of Public Health**

**To: All KS-HAN Users**

**RE: New Provider Resource for Monkeypox Assessment**

## **Monkeypox Information for Providers Resource**

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has released a provider resource for preparing, recognizing, and reporting persons with suspected cases of monkeypox virus (MPX) to public health. In addition, the resource contains the assessment questions that KDHE epidemiology will use for determining the risk of MPX as well as isolation, supportive care, and medical countermeasures (e.g. TPOXX). The provider resource is posted to the KDHE monkeypox virus webpage at

[www.kdhe.ks.gov/monkeypox](http://www.kdhe.ks.gov/monkeypox) on the right-hand side of the page under *For Health Care Providers* section. The direct link to the resource is available at:

<https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/24103>.

Local Health Departments and other healthcare providers can use this document when communicating with concerned individuals about potential exposures or high-risk behaviors. The epidemiological criteria and information on cohort/social network experiencing MPX found in *Step 3: Reporting Suspect Cases to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment* can help determine if someone may have been exposed to MPX.

When evaluating persons with suspect cases of MPX, providers can assess prodrome symptoms, rash presentation, and epidemiological criteria as provided in the *Recognizing Monkeypox* section. When calling into the KDHE Epidemiology Hotline to report the suspect case and to seek testing approval at the Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories, providers/health departments should have all the information collected from *Step 3: Reporting Suspect Cases to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment* on hand for discussion with the on-call epidemiologist.

## **Additional Information**

The KDHE in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continue to monitor and respond to cases of MPX. As of August 4, 2022, KDHE has identified one confirmed case of monkeypox/orthopoxvirus in Kansas. The risk to MPX remains LOW for the general population. MPX is spreading mostly through close, intimate contact with someone who has MPX in the current outbreak. The general public can be directed to the

KDHE Monkeypox Disease webpage at [www.kdhe.ks.gov/monkeypox](http://www.kdhe.ks.gov/monkeypox). In addition, general MPX questions can be sent to [monkeypox@ks.gov](mailto:monkeypox@ks.gov) and are answered during normal business hours. Providers and LHDs should email [kdhe.epihotline@ks.gov](mailto:kdhe.epihotline@ks.gov) or call the KDHE Epidemiology hotline (877-427-7317) with any MPX questions.

K.A.R. 28-1-2 requires exotic diseases such as MPX to be reported directly to the 24/7 KDHE Epidemiology Hotline (877-427-7317 option 5) within four hours of suspicion. Preferably, the provider should contact KDHE epidemiology before the patient leaves the facility. KDHE is requesting that local health departments refer any provider or healthcare facility regarding MPX cases directly to the epidemiology hotline. This ensures that our on-call epidemiologist can coordinate and assess all the necessary information directly from the provider/patient to determine the risk of MPX to initiate testing, medical countermeasures (e.g., vaccines, antivirals), and contact tracing.