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ALAMEDA COUNTY OFFERS MPOX VACCINATIONS -GET YOURS NOW

Alameda County Public Health Department encourages residents at risk of contracting mpox to protect themselves by completing a two-dose mpox vaccination series

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA — While there has been a low number of mpox (formerly known as Monkeypox) cases in Alameda County over the past few months, mpox is still circulating in the United States (see <u>New Cluster of Mpox Cases: Chicago</u>). For this reason, the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) is encouraging all those who need protection from mpox to get vaccinated now, ahead of summer celebrations.

The mpox vaccine has been proven safe and very effective at reducing the risk of infection. The vaccine is administered as a two-dose series, given at least 28 days apart. People are considered "fully vaccinated" 14 days after getting the two-dose series.

With LGBTQ PRIDE just weeks away, now is the best time for people to ensure they are protected with the two-dose series. Getting both the first and second dose of the vaccine provides better protection than one dose alone. There are several upcoming events where you can get vaccinated at no cost. For information on where to get vaccinated— including community PODS, and local bars— see <u>Planned Vaccine Events</u> (more clinics coming soon). Please note that the mpox vaccine is also available in many health clinics.

Persons living with HIV, persons who are eligible for HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), men who have sex with men, trans people, and nonbinary people are strongly encouraged to get fully vaccinated. "Mpox shouldn't be allowed to ruin summer fun," said Dr. George Ayala, ACPHD Deputy Director. "The 2-dose JYNNEOS vaccine together with prevention education are our strongest lines of defense against mpox infection, serious illness, and hospitalization. The vaccine is safe and effective. We must get the word out now." The mpox vaccine is just one way to support your sexual health. It is important for sexually active people to get tested for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), such as gonorrhea and syphilis. In addition to screening, other ways to support your sexual health include using PrEP to prevent HIV and Doxy-PEP to prevent certain bacterial sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Community education and support are also key. Community members should stay informed about the different ways to prevent mpox infection.

For more information about sexual health, please visit the <u>ACPHD sexual health website</u> or email <u>SexualHealth@acgov.org</u>.

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