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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 8, 2022

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**Alameda County Expands Eligibility for MPX Vaccine and Offers Second Doses**

*There is adequate JYNNEOS supply to begin administering to more people in highly impacted communities and second doses to people who received a first dose at least 28 days prior.*

**ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA** – Monkeypox (MPX) virus transmission continues in the Bay Area. As of September 7, 2022, there have been [198 reported MPX cases among Alameda County residents](#) and 4,140 cases in California. Although anyone can get MPX, most local cases reported to date are mainly among gay and bisexual men, and other men who have sex with men.

To reach more residents with MPX vaccine who are part of communities most impacted by the local epidemic, today Alameda County announced that **eligibility is immediately expanded to include all gay and bisexual men, trans people or any man who has sex with men or trans people**. Previously, due to supply limitations, Alameda County offered first doses to gay and bisexual men, transgender people, and other men who have sex with men who had more than one sexual partner in the last 14 days. **Groups previously [eligible](#) for vaccine will continue to be eligible**. Vaccine must be given before symptoms start.

Additionally, **anyone who received a first dose of the MPX vaccine at least 28 days ago should now get their second dose**. If more than 28 days have passed since a person received their first dose of MPX vaccine, they don't need to restart or add doses to the vaccine series.

"Expanding eligibility for the MPX vaccine was made possible thanks to increased vaccine supply," said Dr. George Ayala, Deputy Director, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency's Public Health Department. "The vaccine is safe and, if you are a gay or bisexual man, trans person, or any man who has sex with men or trans people, we encourage you to get vaccinated and get your second doses."

This eligibility expansion and offering of second doses are in alignment with surrounding counties in the Bay Area.

Newly eligible Alameda County residents or those who need their second dose should contact their health care provider or visit a community event or clinic operated in partnership with Alameda County. Visit [mpx.acgov.org/vaccine](https://mpx.acgov.org/vaccine) for vaccination locations.

Any person—of any age, gender, or sexual orientation—who has direct skin-to-skin contact with an infected person can get MPX. MPX is primarily spread in the following ways:

- Direct contact with the rash, scabs, or body fluids of an infectious person
- Sexual and other close, intimate contact with an infectious person
- Sharing unwashed bedding, towels, and clothing with an infectious person

- Exposure to the respiratory secretions of an infectious person\*

*\*Through prolonged, close, face-to-face interaction; the type that mainly occurs when living with or caring for someone with MPX.*

Learn more about preventing MPX and signs and symptoms: <https://mpx.acgov.org/faqs/>

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