



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

July 28, 2022

Dear Local Health Directors, Medical Directors, and Public Information Officers:

I appreciate your ongoing assistance and support as we continue to battle public health challenges and threats on multiple fronts.

The World Health Organization declared Monkeypox a global public health emergency of international concern on July 22, 2022. We have been working closely with federal partners, local health departments (LHDs), and clinicians across the state to respond to this latest public health threat. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recognizes that vaccine supply is limited, however, ***we strive to utilize all doses of vaccine as soon as they become available to help mitigate spread***. With your help, we will distribute the vaccine rapidly and in an equitable way to those at highest risk for the Monkeypox virus (MPV) while prioritizing those at highest risk of severe MPV.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is coordinating vaccine distributions through LHDs with a strategy aimed at maximizing the limited number of doses currently allocated to the state. We issued vaccine guidance for LHDs this week and it is available [here](#). There are currently eight LHD hubs throughout the state. However, any non-hub LHD can request vaccine by reaching out to MDHHS-MPV-vaccine@michigan.gov to obtain vaccine for patients that are known or highly suspected to be contacts of an individual with MPV.

There should be no hesitation in utilizing these vaccinations and I implore you to use the resources that we have, however limited they may be at this time. Additional allocations should be received by the state later this year with more vaccine slated for 2023. As we continue conversations with our federal partners, and state and local leaders on our MPV response, we must do our best to ensure that we are using the resources we have and getting shots in arms to those in greatest need, to prevent serious disease and outbreaks.

We expect that our vaccine strategy will shift as more vaccine is received in the state. We appreciate your patience and flexibility as we work through this together.

Again, I cannot thank you enough for the incredible work you have done over the past few years, and I hope that our continued collaboration will further protect the residents of Michigan.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hertel

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