



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 24, 2022

TO: Michigan Local Health Department Health Officers

FROM: Dr. Alexis Travis, Sr. Deputy Director 
Public Health Administration

SUBJECT: Monkeypox Virus: Minor Consent for Testing, Treatment and Vaccination

Local Health Departments (LHDs)—which are often used by minors (i.e., persons under the age of 18) to obtain testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs)—have sought clarification as to whether they may interview, test, and treat minors for monkeypox virus (MPV) without parental consent. While MPV is not exclusively transmitted through sexual contact, at this time, the vast majority of known cases are associated with recent sexual or intimate contact. Consequently, The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) will treat MPV as an STI for purposes of Part 51 of the Public Health Code.

In light of this interpretation of Part 51, MDHHS is supporting the below interpretation in response to common questions from LHDs:

Q: Can an LHD interview a minor presenting with MPV without parental consent?

A: Yes. Public health departments are not obligated to obtain parental consent before interviewing a minor. Local health departments should use their discretion to determine whether parental involvement is appropriate in any given case.

Q: Can an LHD (or other provider) test a minor presenting with a MPV exposure or MPV symptoms without parental consent?

A: Yes. [MCL 333.5127](#) provides that, when a minor “is or professes to be infected” with an STI, the minor may consent to medical care (including testing) and treatment, and parental consent for such medical care and treatment is not required. STI is defined in Part 51 of the Public Health Code as “syphilis, gonorrhea, chancroid, lymphogranuloma venereum, granuloma inguinale, and other sexually transmitted infections that the department may designate and require to be reported under section 5111.” As noted above, MDHHS considers MPV to be an STI for purposes of Part 51 to ensure that all may receive the necessary care. LHDs are also reminded that mandatory reporting laws may apply in certain situations.

Q: Can an LHD vaccinate a minor who is a named close contact, unnamed close contact, or fits the PEP++ definition without parental consent?

A: Yes. Because the treatment for MPV exposure or suspected exposure is vaccination, MCL 333.5127 permits vaccination in the absence of parental consent for a minor who “is or professes to be infected with” MPV. This would only apply to individuals in the PEP and PEP++ categories of our current vaccine strategy as they would likely have a true risk of current or possible infection. This may change as the infection continues to evolve. To protect minor privacy, LHDs should offer minors seeking care for MPV under MCL 333.5127 the ability to object in writing to the reporting of the vaccine in their MCIR record under MCL 333.9206(2).

Please direct any questions to Local Health Services at MDHHS-LocalHealthServices@michigan.gov.

AT:ld