

DATE: 4 August 2022

SUBJECT: Monkeypox vaccination

Please attribute to Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant:

Those most at risk from monkeypox in NSW can access the first 5,500 doses of JYNNEOS smallpox vaccine from Monday 8 August, as part of a targeted rollout.

The first 5,500 vaccine doses will be allocated to the following targeted groups:

- people who would be particularly vulnerable should monkeypox become locally endemic, such as GBMSM who are homeless, sex workers and those who have significant drug use that affects their judgement
- people who are HIV positive and immune suppressed
- post exposure prophylaxis for close contacts of cases
- A small number will be available for those GBMSM at highest risk with booked overseas travel to UK, Europe and North America before 31 October 2022.

A further 30,000 vaccine doses will be delivered to NSW next month and another 70,000 doses in 2023, for other individuals at risk of monkeypox.

Doctors will initially identify patients who are men who have sex with men (MSM) who are most vulnerable to monkeypox and offer them vaccine as the initial batches become available.

People at highest risk for monkeypox are gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM). To date, 33 cases of monkeypox have been identified in NSW. However, with cases increasing internationally, more local cases and local transmission is likely.

NSW Health has been working with its community partners such as ACON, sexual health and infectious disease services, and doctors who have a special interest in HIV and sexual health to communicate the risks of monkeypox, promote prevention and to support the vaccine rollout.

Monkeypox and STI prevention messages will be provided to all people receiving the vaccine as the vaccine does not provide complete protection, and it's important for people to protect themselves from monkeypox and other infections.

Working with our partners, NSW Health will provide specific outreach to those people who they have identified as particularly vulnerable.

Over the coming days NSW Health will release further details about how high-risk people can register interest in receiving the vaccine. Those determined to be at high

risk will then receive a clinical assessment to determine their eligibility for the vaccine.

NSW Public Health Units will continue to investigate cases' source of infection and trace at-risk contacts.

If you think you might have the symptoms of monkeypox, please call ahead to your GP or local sexual health clinic. It is important to wear a mask when attending the clinic.

MSM who are returning from known hotspots (such as UK, Europe, and North America) particularly those who have attended dance parties, sex parties or saunas should monitor for signs or symptoms of monkeypox.

Symptoms of concern include headache, fever, chills, sore throat, muscle and body aches, fatigue, rash, and swollen lymph nodes. The rash may initially be minimal and look like pimples in the buttock or genital region. If signs or symptoms develop isolate immediately and seek care by calling ahead to make an appointment with your local General Practitioner or sexual health clinic. Symptoms will usually develop up to two weeks from exposure but can take up to three weeks.

Please limit sexual partners for the period following your return and maintain a list of people you have sexual contact with so we can alert those people to minimise the spread.

If you are advised on return that you are a close contact isolate immediately and call your General Practitioner or sexual health clinic. If you have questions about monkeypox contact the NSW Sexual Health Infolink on 1800 451 624.