



**CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**  
California Department of Public Health

July 19, 2022

Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dear Dr. Walensky,

We would like to extend our deep thanks and gratitude to you and your team for your continued partnership not only in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, but now in our collective response to the monkeypox outbreak.

As you know well, the monkeypox is spreading in California and makes up 14 percent of cases in the United States. As a result, it is critical for us to work together and across government—federal, state, and local—to mitigate the spread and protect those disproportionately impacted by the virus.

In California, the virus is impacting the LGBTQ community specifically, with a disproportionate impact among men-who-have-sex-with-men as well as transgender and nonbinary individuals. Unlike the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic when we did not have a vaccine to mitigate the spread, in the case of monkeypox we do have an approved vaccine that should be effective and can mitigate the impact among a group of individuals who continue to be marginalized.

As you work to secure additional doses of the JYNNEOS vaccine, we want to share with you our estimated need in California. We believe that California needs at least 600,000 – 800,000 additional doses of the vaccine so that we can expand eligibility to both confirmed and probable exposures, but also to those individuals who are at high-risk of the virus as a pre-exposure prophylaxis.

We estimate that there are 250,000 to 300,000 individuals in California who we consider high-risk as they have two or more sexual partners. When we look at the population who might be bisexual as well as those who are men-who-have-sex-with-men, we estimate roughly 350,000 individuals who are high-risk. It is also important to ensure adequate vaccine for occupational exposures and prepare for the likelihood of wider spread. Based on these data, our estimate is conservative given the JYNNEOS vaccine requires two doses.

Due to the limited supply, our current allocation is being distributed to our local partners based on a formula that considers an equal proportion of the number of monkeypox cases and proportion of the number of early male syphilis cases. We are holding roughly 15 percent of our allocation to respond to new outbreaks as well as to local health jurisdictions who currently have no cases.

To ensure that we not further stigmatize this population, we have been working proactively with local and community-based partners to develop resources, deploy vaccine clinics, and ensure appropriate messaging that is inclusive. We have more work ahead of us to stop the spread of the virus. To do that, we must deploy all tools in our toolbox, including the available vaccine.

We thank you in advance for your tireless efforts to secure additional doses of the vaccine, and we look forward to our continued work together.

Arms linked,



**Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH**  
Secretary  
California Health and Human Services Agency



**Tomás Aragón, MD, DrPH**  
Director & State Public Health Officer  
California Department of Public Health

cc:

The Honorable Xavier Becerra  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services