

For Immediate Release:
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GTCHD announces limited availability of Monkeypox vaccine

The Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) has received a limited supply of the monkeypox virus (MPV) vaccines and has begun to administer the vaccine at private clinics via appointment for those that are eligible. The risk to the general public is low and eligibility is being assessed on a case-by-case basis.

“Although we do not have any cases of monkeypox in Northern Michigan currently, we do want to provide protection for those at highest risk of contracting MPV and proactively prevent a possible outbreak in our region” said GTCHD Health Officer, Wendy Hirschenberger.

Eligibility

Current supply of the MPV vaccine is limited. While MPV can affect anyone, vaccination is limited to those that are at the highest risk for MPV infection at this time. Guidance and eligibility are subject to change based on vaccine supply and changes in the risks of infection. Contact your local health department if you have recently been exposed to MPV or are at high risk for exposure. Vaccine recommendations can be found [here](#).

Transmission of MPV

MPV is a viral illness. It primarily spreads through close or intimate contact with those that are infected through contact with rashes, scabs, bodily fluids, or extended face-to-face contact. Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has MPV can get the illness regardless of age, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Symptoms of MPV

MPV infection typically begins with flu-like symptoms that progresses into rashes on the face and/or body. Additional symptoms include:

- Fever
- Chills
- Headache
- Back and muscle aches
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Feeling tired
- Sore throat, cough, and/or nasal congestion
- Rashes that look like pimples or blisters
- Can appear on the face, in the mouth, or on the body such as hands, feet, chest, and/or genitals

If you believe you are eligible and would like to schedule an MPV vaccine, please call: 231-995-6801.

For more information:

www.gtcountymi.gov/2547

www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/keep-mihealthy/communicablediseases/diseasesandimmunization/mpv

www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html

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www.GTCountyMI.gov/Health