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For Immediate Release

BLDHD Announces Limited Availability of Monkeypox Virus Vaccine

Risk to the general public low

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department (BLDHD) now has a limited supply of the monkeypox virus (MPV) vaccine. Vaccinations are available for those eligible beginning today, Monday, Aug. 22.

“While our district has not had any confirmed cases of MPV, having the vaccine allows us to be proactive in our ability to protect residents,” said BLDHD Interim Health Officer Dan Thorell. “However, at this time supplies are limited, so we’re only vaccinating if folks meet specific eligibility requirements.”

Eligibility

The 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. 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 who are infected through contact with rashes, scabs, bodily fluids, or extended face-to-face contact. It is not spread through casual contact, such as passing someone in a store or being in the same room as a person with Monkeypox.

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, hands, feet, chest, and/or genitals

For more information on the eligibility requirements of the MPV vaccine, please visit

<https://www.bldhd.org/Monkeypox>

If you believe you are eligible and would like to schedule an MPV vaccine, please call 231-256-0200.

For more information on MPV, visit

<https://link.zixcentral.com/u/fc54277e/2MFKihkf7RGgiWEWXNGfSw?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.michigan.gov%2Fmdhhs%2Fkeep-mi-healthy%2Fcommunicablediseases%2Fdiseasesandimmunization%2Fmpv> or <https://link.zixcentral.com/u/27ebca09/7jLihkf7RGgiWEWXNGfSw?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fpoxvirus%2Fmonkeypox%2Findex.html>.

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