

Office Hours: M-F 8:00am-4:30pm
Toll-Free: 800-250-3110
Fax: 920-232-3370

health@co.winnebago.wi.us
www.winnebagohealth.org



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
**Winnebago County
Health Department**

112 Otter Avenue
Oshkosh, WI 54903-2808
Phone: 920-232-3000

211 N Commercial Street
Neenah, WI 54956
Phone: 920-727-2894

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Media Contact:
Ashley Mukasa, Communications Specialist
920-232-3352, amukasa@co.winnebago.wi.us

Monkeypox Vaccine Eligibility Criteria Expands

OSHKOSH, Wis. (October 12, 2022) – The Winnebago County Health Department is currently offering the JYNNEOS monkeypox vaccine to anyone eligible according to updated eligibility guidelines provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. To make an appointment or see if you qualify, contact the Winnebago County Health Department's hotline at 920-232-3026 or email wchd.cd@winnebago.wi.us.

The monkeypox vaccine is currently recommended for people who had known exposure to someone with monkeypox, those who are more likely to be exposed and people with certain risk factors. This includes:

- People who know that a sexual partner in the past 14 days was diagnosed with monkeypox.
- People considered to have elevated risk of exposure to monkeypox in the future:
 - Gay men, bisexual men, trans men and women, any men who have sex with men, and gender non-conforming/non-binary individuals who:
 - Have recently had multiple or anonymous sex partners. This may include people living with HIV and people who take HIV pre-exposure because of increased risk of sexually transmitted infections.
 - Have new diagnosis of one or more nationally reportable sexually transmitted diseases (for example, acute HIV, chancroid, chlamydia, gonorrhea, or syphilis).
 - People who attended or had sex at a commercial sex venue or an event or venue where there was known monkeypox transmission or exposure.
 - Sexual partners of people with the above risks.
 - People who anticipate experiencing the above risks.
- [Certain people in health care or clinical laboratories.](#)
- Known contacts who are identified by public health through case investigation, contact tracing, and risk exposure assessments.

"These expanded guidelines allow more people who may be at higher risk of infection to get vaccinated," said Doug Gieryn, Winnebago County Health Department Health Officer/Director. "We encourage anyone who may be at risk for monkeypox to contact our health department staff, so we can work with you to determine eligibility and find a time that works best for you to get vaccinated."

Monkeypox does not spread easily to others, and the risk of monkeypox spreading widely throughout our community remains low. To date, two cases have been reported in Winnebago County residents. Getting vaccinated may reduce the risk of infection and the severity of symptoms associated with monkeypox.

Most people with monkeypox report having prolonged close contact, including kissing, hugging or sexual activity, with someone else who has monkeypox. Monkeypox can also spread through respiratory droplets and by having contact with items that have been contaminated with the fluids or sores of a person with monkeypox. While most cases nationwide are occurring in the sexual network of gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, it is important to know that monkeypox can affect anyone and a person's sexuality or sexual orientation are not the route of transmission. Learn the [signs and symptoms of monkeypox](#) and contact a healthcare provider or the health department if you develop a new or unexplained rash.

For more information, call the Winnebago County Health Department at 920-232-3026 or visit www.winnebagohealth.org.