

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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To our Providers, Laboratories, and Local Boards of Health,

Your efforts to test and treat patients for monkeypox and perform case follow-ups are vital to our success in containing the outbreak in Massachusetts. **As part of a strong and equitable monkeypox response, it is equally essential that you report patient demographic data to the Department of Public Health as required by law.**

Our understanding of and response to this outbreak are only as effective as the data reported by you to DPH. To appropriately focus our interventions and response, we rely on your timely and complete reporting of demographic case data — including age, gender, race, ethnicity, and any other data element as defined by the Department.

Currently, the required data that is submitted on monkeypox vaccinations is incomplete for race and ethnicity. Accurate and complete data are critical for an equitable and culturally relevant response to monkeypox.

As with COVID, the clearer our understanding of the impacted individuals and communities, the better we can target our resources. The Department's disease reporting regulation 105 CMR 300.000 requires cases of reportable diseases — which includes monkeypox and over 90 other infectious diseases — be **reported with complete demographic information within 24 hours** and has been updated to clarify the demographic data that are required to be reported.

Meeting reporting requirements is critical to ensuring that Massachusetts continues to receive its federal allocation of vaccine and is central to an equitable response to monkeypox across the Commonwealth. The attached guidance document outlines infectious disease reporting requirements and how to report these data. We are monitoring reporting by institution, and your compliance is required and necessary to inform our continued response to monkeypox in Massachusetts.

Meeting this legal requirement is critical to our collective efforts to address monkeypox, and we appreciate your work to obtain complete demographic data.

Sincerely,

Catherine Brown, DVM, MSc, MPH State Epidemiologist  
Larry Madoff, MD, Medical Director, Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health