PRESS RELEASE

NETEC provides free, ongoing technical support and assistance to healthcare facilities in response to U.S. outbreak of Monkeypox Virus

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Following the confirmation of a U.S. based case of monkeypox on Wednesday, the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC) continues to support U.S. healthcare agencies that encounter, or may encounter, a case of monkeypox virus infection with free, ongoing guidance and resources. NETEC experts are available to provide free consultations and technical support services through NETEC's online service request portal and at info@netec.org.

On May 18, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health confirmed a single case of monkeypox virus infection in an adult male, with recent travel to Canada. The patient is being cared for at Massachusetts General Hospital, which is the ASPR Region 1 Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC), a network of specialized teams coordinated and trained by NETEC.

"Since the first cases of Monkeypox were discovered outside endemic areas, NETEC leadership has been in contact with clinicians and public health officials in the impacted regions, providing frequent monkeypox situation reports to the nation's RESPTCs and their partners," reports Aneesh Mehta, Co-Principal Investigator for NETEC at Emory University.

Public health agencies have been tracking multiple clusters of monkeypox reported in several countries that typically do not see Monkeypox cases including Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Italy, and the United Kingdom (CDC) since early May 2022. Many of these cases have been acquired without travel to Central or Western Africa, where Monkeypox is endemic. This is the first case of monkeypox identified in the U.S. since November 2021.

Monkeypox is a rare but potentially serious viral illness that typically begins with flu-like symptoms, followed by a rash that often begins on the face and then spreads to other parts of the body. Some patients have had genital lesions and the rash may be hard to distinguish from syphilis, herpes simplex virus (HSV) infection, chancroid, varicella zoster, and other more common infections.

Guidance issued by the CDC on Friday, 5/20/22 advises that clinicians should remain alert for patients that present rash illnesses consistent with Monkeypox regardless of their travel histories; implement the identify, isolate, and inform strategy to reduce potential exposures in their facilities; and adhere to a combination of standard, contact, airborne, and droplet precautions in all healthcare settings when a patient presents with fever and vesicular/pustular rash (CDC).

For more about the monkeypox virus or to request technical assistance, visit NETEC.org and the CDC.
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ABOUT NETEC
Established in 2015 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) following the successful treatment of Ebola patients in 2014, NETEC's mission is to set the gold standard for special pathogen preparedness and response across health systems in the U.S. with the goals of driving best practices, closing knowledge gaps, and developing innovative resources.

NETEC leverages the unique expertise, resources, and experience of regional partners and federal agencies to assess health care facility readiness, train providers, provide technical assistance and build a rapid research infrastructure to combat emerging special pathogens, building a sustainable infrastructure and culture of readiness for managing suspected and confirmed special pathogen incidents across the United States public health and health care delivery systems. Visit NETEC.org for more information.