



## **LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT**

**Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology**

**LO 22-0026**

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### **Legislative Oversight Hearing - Monkeypox Vaccination and Outreach Plan**

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#### **Purpose:**

For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore City Health Department, Baltimore's health care community, and other interested parties before the Baltimore City Council to discuss Baltimore's Monkeypox vaccination and outreach plan.

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#### **REPORTING AGENCIES**

Health Department

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#### **BACKGROUND**

In May 2022, several clusters of human monkeypox cases were reported in countries that do not normally report human monkeypox, including the United States. As of September 9, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control reported 21,504 total cases in the U.S. In Maryland, 571 total cases have been identified with 171 cases (29.9%) in Baltimore City. To date there have been no deaths from monkeypox in the U.S.

Monkeypox virus is part of the same family of viruses as variola virus, the virus that causes smallpox. Monkeypox symptoms are similar to smallpox symptoms, but milder, and monkeypox is rarely fatal. Monkeypox is not related to chickenpox.

Monkeypox can spread to anyone through close contact, including direct contact with monkeypox rash, scabs, or body fluids from a person with monkeypox; touching objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox; and contact with respiratory secretions. It is also possible for people to get



monkeypox from infected animals, either by being scratched or bitten by the animal or by preparing or eating meat or using products from an infected animal.

People with monkeypox experience a rash that can look like pimples or blisters on the face, inside the mouth, and on other parts of the body, like the hands, feet, chest, genitals, or anus. The rash goes through different stages before healing completely. The illness typically lasts 2-4 weeks. Sometimes, people get a rash first, followed by other symptoms. Others only experience a rash. Other symptoms of monkeypox can include fever, headache, muscle aches and backache, swollen lymph nodes, chills, and exhaustion.

Vaccination is currently not recommended for the general public for the prevention of monkeypox. The JYNNEOS vaccine has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for protection against the monkeypox virus in people who have been exposed to monkeypox and people who are more likely to get monkeypox. Getting vaccinated as soon as possible after exposure to someone with monkeypox (ideally within 4 days) provides the best chance to prevent the disease or make it less severe.

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### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Fiscal Note:** None

**Information Source(s):**

- Centers for Disease Control, Monkeypox,  
<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html>
- Maryland Department of Health, Human Monkeypox,  
<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OIDEOR/Pages/monkeypox.aspx>

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Analysis by:   
Analysis Date: September 9, 2022

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