



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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From: Emma Doran, MD, MPH, Medical Epidemiologist
To: North Carolina Clinicians
Subject: Mpox Clade Ib Update (2 pages – update to the [January 15, 2026 memo](#))

The North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) is providing updated information to North Carolina clinicians regarding the recent identification of two travel-associated clade Ib mpox cases in the state.

Since January 2026, 867 cases of mpox have been reported in the United States (US), including 18 cases in North Carolina. The majority of reported US cases have been caused by clade II mpox virus, which is generally associated with less severe disease and lower mortality than clade I infections. While clade Ib mpox continues to circulate primarily in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, since late 2025 several Western European countries have reported clade Ib cases among individuals without documented travel to areas where the virus is known to be endemic. Both North Carolina residents diagnosed with clade Ib mpox reported recent travel to Western Europe, suggesting travel-associated acquisition.

NC DPH urges clinicians to maintain a heightened index of suspicion for clade I mpox in patients presenting with compatible signs and symptoms who report recent international travel or close or intimate contact with someone who has recently traveled to a region where clade I mpox is known to be [circulating](#). Early recognition, appropriate testing, prompt reporting to public health, and implementation of recommended infection prevention and control measures are essential to reducing the risk of transmission.

Actions requested:

- Test individuals with [clinical signs and symptoms](#) consistent with mpox, through a commercial laboratory or the NC State Laboratory of Public Health ([NCSLPH specimen collection and submission infographic](#)).
- Follow CDC guidance on [mpox infection prevention and control](#) to minimize transmission risk while providing care to patients with suspected mpox.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

- For severe mpox infections, consider Tecovirimat from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) for patients who meet eligibility criteria under the [CDC's EA-IND protocol](#).
- Offer JYNNEOS vaccine to anyone with [risk factors](#) for or a recent exposure to mpox. Eligible providers can request state supplied JYNNEOS vaccine by emailing ncirhelp@dhhs.nc.gov.
- Report all suspected or confirmed cases of mpox to your [local health department](#).

Please contact the Communicable Disease Branch Epidemiologist on Call at 919-733-3419 with any questions.

Thank you for all you do to protect the health of North Carolinians.

Additional Information/Resources:

[NC DHHS's Mpox Website](#)

[CDC's Mpox Current Situation Website](#)

[CDC's Mpox Vaccine Website](#)

[CDC's Mpox Clinical Care Website](#)

[ECDC Mpox Surveillance Report](#)