

Rhode Island Expands Monkeypox Vaccination Efforts

August 4, 2022

National and local health officials are responding to a current global outbreak of monkeypox. To date, more than 5,100 cases of monkeypox have been identified in the United States and 25 cases have been identified in Rhode Island. There is a vaccine to help prevent monkeypox virus infection, but supply has been limited. Rhode Island Governor Dan McKee's office recently announced that the state has received additional vaccine supply from the federal government this week.

Vaccine Eligibility

To date, Rhode Island had only been vaccinating people identified as close contacts of someone who has tested positive for monkeypox, however, Rhode Island's expanded vaccine eligibility now includes any man who:

- Is age 18 or older AND
- Is a Rhode Island resident AND
- Identifies as gay, bisexual, queer, or who has sex with men and/or transgender individuals AND
- Has had multiple or anonymous sex partners in the past month (30 days).

Vaccination Sites in Rhode Island

Open Door Health, Miriam Hospital's Infectious Disease Clinic, and Thundermist Health Center have received limited amounts of monkeypox vaccine for existing patients who are at increased risk for monkeypox. Using the clinical judgement of staff and eligibility guidance from the Rhode Island Department of Health ([RIDOH](#)), these sites will be contacting existing patients about vaccination.

In addition, RIDOH will offer two community clinics for people who are clinically eligible for vaccine:

- Friday, August 5th – Rhode Island College, Alger Hall (Room 110), 600 Mount Pleasant Ave., Providence, 4-8 PM. [Click here](#) to register for the Rhode Island College Clinic.
- Saturday, August 6th – Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School, 375 Adelaide Ave., Providence, 10AM-2PM. [Click here](#) to register for the Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School Clinic.

Pre-registration is *required* for these clinics. People who are not pre-registered will not be vaccinated at these clinics. Use the links above to register. People who cannot register online can call the RIDOH Health Information Line at 401-222-5960. People should arrive no earlier than 15 minutes before their scheduled appointments.

People being vaccinated in Rhode Island are receiving the two-dose JYNNEOS vaccine series. People who are vaccinated at these community clinics will receive information about where and when to receive their second doses, roughly 28 days later.

Vaccine Interest Notification List

There is significant demand for monkeypox vaccine at this time and the State is working to make more vaccine available in Rhode Island. If unable to get an appointment to be vaccinated, Rhode Islanders can submit their contact information to the Vaccine Interest Notification List and someone from RIDOH will contact reach out when vaccine is available. Sign up for the Vaccine Interest Notification List by visiting the following: <https://bit.ly/3oPcXi3>

Provider Resources

RIDOH, [Monkeypox](#) and [Monkeypox Community Partner Toolkit](#)
CDC, [About Monkeypox](#) and [2022 U.S. Monkeypox Outbreak](#)