



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

April 27, 2026

**MEDICAL ADVISORY: CLADE I MPOX VIRUS DETECTED IN WASTEWATER ON OAHU**

- Clade I mpox virus was detected in wastewater on Oahu in a sample collected on April 13, 2026. No clinical cases have been reported.

**Providers should:**

- Remain vigilant to the possibility of mpox in persons presenting with clinically compatible signs and symptoms regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Ask about travel history of suspected mpox cases and their sexual partners.
- Offer vaccination to persons at risk for mpox as part of routine sexual health care.
- Report any suspected cases of mpox to DOH; do not await laboratory confirmation.

Dear Healthcare Provider:

The Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) is reporting a wastewater sample from O'ahu that has tested positive for clade I mpox. The sample was collected on April 13, 2026, and DOH was notified of the initial detection on April 20, 2026, with positive confirmatory testing on April XX. This is the first time clade I mpox has been detected in wastewater in Hawai'i. There are currently outbreaks of clade I mpox with community transmission in [Western Europe and Central & Eastern Africa](#). Several travel-acquired cases have recently been reported in the continental US.

Healthcare providers should remain vigilant to the possibility of mpox in persons presenting with signs and symptoms clinically compatible with mpox in persons who reside or may have visited Oahu during the month of April, regardless of patient sexual orientation or gender identity. Current outbreaks of clade I mpox in the US are being transmitted in both heterosexual and LGBTQ networks.

Providers should use appropriate PPE when caring for patients with suspected mpox, including gown, gloves, eye protection and N-95 or higher particulate respirator. Due to risks of transmission via sharps injuries, provider should not unroof, open, or aspirate mpox lesions with sharp instruments or recap used needles.

**MEDICAL ADVISORY: CLADE I MPOX VIRUS DETECTED IN WASTEWATER ON OAHU**

April 27, 2026

Page 2

Providers should continue to offer vaccination to persons at risk for mpox as part of broader prevention activities and routine sexual health care. Two doses of JYNNEOS given four weeks apart are required for maximal protection. JYNNEOS vaccination should be considered in conjunction with routine prevention activities such as:

- Offering the mpox vaccine alongside other vaccines like COVID-19 or flu vaccine.
- Including mpox prevention in discussions about HIV PEP, HIV PReP, or doxy PEP.
- Allowing individuals to self-attest to their vaccine eligibility (i.e., providing mpox vaccination without requiring individuals to specify which criterion they meet).
- Discussing [behavioral strategies to minimize risk](#) when vaccination is not an option for the patient.

Finally, urgently report any suspected cases of mpox to the DOH Disease Outbreak Control Division. Do NOT wait for laboratory confirmation:

Oahu (Disease Reporting Line).....	(808) 586-4586
Maui District Health Office.....	(808) 984-8213
Kauai District Health Office.....	(808) 241-3563
Big Island District Health Office (Hilo).....	(808) 933-0912
Big Island District Health Office (Kona).....	(808) 322-4877
After hours on Oahu.....	(808) 600-3625
After hours on neighbor islands.....	(800) 360-2575 (toll free)

**References**

News release

[HI Medical Advisory on Mpox October 2024](#)

[HI Medical Advisory on Mpox March 2024](#)

[Global Mpox Trends](#) (WHO data specific to clade I mpox)

[Clade I Mpox Outbreaks \(CDC\)](#)

[Clinical Overview of Clade I and Clade II Mpox \(CDC\)](#)

[Vaccine for Mpox Prevention in the United States \(CDC\)](#)

[Infection Prevention and Control for Mpox in Healthcare Settings \(CDC\)](#)

We appreciate your assistance in protecting the health of Hawai‘i’s residents and visitors.

Sincerely,



Diana Felton, M.D.

Chief, Communicable Disease and Public Health  
Nursing Division