



## Public Health Updates:

### Clade I mpox; BD BACTEC blood culture tube shortage; provider resources

August 12, 2024

Please review important updates from Skagit County Public Health.

**NOTE:** Our 24-hour Communicable Disease phone number is 360-770-8852.

### CDC advisory: Clade I mpox spreading in central and eastern Africa

#### From Washington State Department of Health

Last week, the CDC released a [Health Advisory about the spread of clade I mpox](#) from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to several neighboring countries.

**No cases of clade I mpox have been reported in Washington**, and there are no known cases outside of central and eastern Africa at this time. However, because of the risk of additional spread, CDC and the Washington Department of Health (WA DOH) are recommending that public health jurisdictions and clinicians maintain heightened suspicion for mpox when both of the following are true:

1. Patients presenting to care with [signs and symptoms consistent with mpox](#), **AND:**
2. Have reported recent travel to The Democratic Republic of the Congo, The Republic of the Congo, Angola, Zambia, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, South Sudan, or The Central African Republic.

Healthcare providers in Washington should report suspected cases of clade I mpox to their [local health jurisdiction](#). **For Skagit County residents report to Skagit County Public Health by calling 360-770-8852.**

#### Additional resources:

- WA DOH mpox page: [Mpox | Washington State Department of Health](#)
- WA DOH mpox testing information: [Mpox Specimen Testing in Washington](#)

Skagit County Public Health continues to offer Jynneos vaccine at no cost to anyone at risk for mpox exposure. Our supplies are limited so please refer patients in need now. To help schedule a patient for vaccination call 360-416-1500 or email [communicabledisease@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:communicabledisease@co.skagit.wa.us).

## **BD BACTEC blood culture tube shortage**

The U.S. is experiencing interruptions in the supply of BD BACTEC blood culture media bottles because of recent supplier issues. The disruption in supply of this device is expected to impact patient diagnosis, follow up patient management, and antimicrobial stewardship efforts. The CDC issued a [HAN advisory](#) recommending that facilities develop strategies to preserve the supply for patients at highest risk.

Please follow the [WA DOH Blood Culture Vial Conservation Guidance for Acute Care Facilities](#) .

## **Fall respiratory virus vaccines and Nirsevimab guidance**

- CDC provides [updates on fall respiratory virus vaccines](#) for COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV.
- [Visit the CDC's NIAM website](#) for a full repository of resources to help promote vaccines and have productive immunization conversations with patients.
- Use this resource to improve COVID-19 vaccine uptake in children this fall: [Promising Practices to Improve the Uptake of COVID-19 Vaccines for Children](#).

[Nirsevimab](#) should be administered in the first week of life for infants born shortly before or during the RSV season (typically October through March). Infants with prolonged birth hospitalizations due to prematurity or other causes should receive nirsevimab shortly before or promptly after discharge.

Infants younger than age 8 months born outside of the RSV season and older infants or toddlers at high risk who are recommended to receive nirsevimab in their second RSV season, should aim to receive nirsevimab shortly before the start of the RSV season (typically October). If the ideal timing is missed, age-eligible infants and children who have not yet received a dose may be immunized at any time during the RSV season.

## **Public Health Resources – Doxy PEP, animal bite reporting, rabies PEP**

- STI Prevention Resource: [Doxy PEP Strategy](#) from CDC
- August brings an increase in bat activity. Please refer to the WA DOH [Provider Resources for Rabies](#).
- [Report animal bites](#) to Skagit County Public Health and if post exposure prophylaxis is provided use the [Rabies PEP reporting form](#).

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**Thank you for your partnership in keeping Skagit County healthy!**



**Skagit County Public Health  
Communicable Disease Division**

Business hours phone: (360) 416-1500

**After hours urgent provider line: (360) 770-8852**

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[www.skagitcounty.net/health/diseases](http://www.skagitcounty.net/health/diseases)