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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SARATOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO HOLD MONKEYPOX VACCINE CLINIC FOR PEOPLE AT RISK OF EXPOSURE TO MONKEYPOX

The Department is Offering Vaccination to Eligible Individuals

Those eligible can make an appointment at the Saratoga County Department of Health Monkeypox Resource Center [webpage](#)

BALLSTON SPA, NY -- Saratoga County officials today announced the opening of a temporary clinic to administer the two-dose JYNNEOS™ vaccine to eligible people who may have had a recent exposure to monkeypox. Getting vaccinated shortly after an exposure reduces the risk of developing monkeypox and can reduce symptoms for those who do get it.

There are currently no reported cases of monkeypox in Saratoga County. This vaccine clinic is a proactive step ahead of the upcoming summer tourist season. Saratoga County Department of Health received 300 doses of the JYNNEOS™ vaccine from New York State. The State specified Saratoga County as a high tourist destination that may see an influx of visitors from areas that are currently seeing increased cases of monkeypox.

The vaccine clinic will be held at the Saratoga County Department of Health Offices at 6012 County Farm Road in Ballston Spa on Tuesday, July 12 from 9:30AM to 11:30AM and Wednesday, July 13 from 1:30PM to 3:30PM.

An appointment is required. New York State has established a link for people to make appointments. Make an appointment at the [Saratoga County Department of Health Monkeypox Resource Center](#). Those who receive the vaccine will be scheduled for a follow-up visit for their second dose.

Vaccine Eligibility:

In accordance with New York State eligibility guidelines, those eligible to make an appointment for vaccine include: all gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (cisgender or transgender) ages 18 and older who have had multiple or anonymous sex partners in the last 14 days or recent exposure to monkeypox in the last 14 days. Men who have sex or other intimate, skin-to-skin, contact with men they met through dating apps or social media platforms, or at clubs, raves, sex parties, saunas, or other large gatherings may be at higher risk of having been recently exposed.

(more)

About Monkeypox:

Anyone can get and spread monkeypox, but most cases in the current outbreak are among gay, bisexual or other men who have sex with men. The monkeypox virus is most often spread through direct contact with a rash or sores of someone who has the virus. It can also spread through contact with clothing, bedding, and other items used by a person with monkeypox, or from respiratory droplets that can be passed in prolonged close contact. Transmission can occur during sex or other close physical contact.

Symptoms:

Symptoms of monkeypox usually start seven to 14 days after exposure but may not appear for up to 21 days. The most common symptom is a rash or sores that can look like pimples or blisters. These may be all over the body or just in certain parts, such as the face, hands, feet, mouth, genitals or anus. Before or at the same time the rash or sores appear, some people have flu-like symptoms, such as fever, swollen lymph nodes, headache, and tiredness. In some cases, monkeypox can cause severe illness. A person is contagious until all sores have healed, and a new layer of skin has formed, which can take two to four weeks.

Prevention and Care:

To reduce the chance of getting or spreading monkeypox, do not engage in sex or other close physical contact (such as touching, massage, or kissing) if you or your partner(s) are sick and especially if you or they have a new or unexpected rash or sores anywhere on the body. Avoid gatherings and direct contact with others if you are unwell or have a rash or sores. Wash your hands, sex toys, and bedding before and after sex or other intimate activities.

Everyone can protect themselves and prevent the spread of monkeypox in their communities:

- Ask sexual partners whether they have a rash or other symptoms consistent with monkeypox.
- Avoid skin-to-skin contact with someone who has a rash or other monkeypox-related symptoms.
- Contact a healthcare provider following exposure or symptoms and check with your local county health department about vaccine eligibility.
- New Yorkers who receive the JYNNEOS™ vaccine should receive both doses, given four-weeks apart, and stay vigilant until fully vaccinated, two weeks following the second dose.
- If you or your healthcare provider suspect you may have monkeypox, isolate at home. If you can, stay in a separate area from other family members and pets.
- Follow reputable sources of health information, including Saratoga County Department of Health, New York State Department of Health, and the CDC.

The JYNNEOS™ vaccine has been licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the prevention of monkeypox in people ages 18 and older. The vaccine requires two doses, four weeks apart.

For more information, the New York State Department of Health has created a [website](#) for eligible adults considering vaccination so that they can better understand their personal level of risk. Saratoga County Department of Health has created a [monkeypox resource center](#) on its webpage with information and links to make a vaccine appointment.