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# NUMBERED NOTICE

Number: **22-05**

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From: Ben Weston, MD, MPH, Medical Director

To: All EMS Providers

Subject: Monkeypox

Purpose: Directive

This information is based on the most up to date knowledge from medical resources including the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the WI Dept of Health. Information is changing daily. Department level information awareness is critical.

## Situation

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- With the current worldwide outbreak of Monkeypox, EMS awareness of up-to-date protective measures is critical.

## Background

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- Symptoms may be variable, including influenza like illness and/or rash.
- Influenza-like illness symptoms may include fever, headache, muscle aches and swollen lymph nodes.
- Rash may present as one or multiple pimples or blisters on face, in mouth, or other parts of the body including genital/anal region.

## Assessment

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- EMS awareness and infection prevention/control measures are important to mitigate transmission.
- Understand that information on Monkeypox is constantly evolving. At the bottom of this document are key CDC and Wisconsin Department of Health links that should be monitored on a regular basis.

## Recommendation

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- The CDC, [WI Dept of Health Services](#) and local health departments will serve as our sources for accurate information.
- While the below includes general guidance, review up to date CDC information on [Infection Prevention and Control of Monkeypox in Healthcare Settings](#).
- All EMS patient encounters should:
  - Minimize number of providers contacting patient.
  - Evaluate and treat patient outdoors as possible.
  - Patient and family members should wear their own face covering or be provided a face covering (exceptions may include those under age 2, those with trouble breathing, those unable to remove their own mask, or others on a case-by-case basis per provider judgement)
  - Don gloves, respiratory protection, and eye protection, prior to entering facility/dwelling/making patient contact.
  - Decontaminate ambulance and equipment via department and manufacturer instructions.



## Milwaukee County

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- If patient is suspected of Monkeypox infection:
  - Ensure provider usage of N95/KN95/KF94 or superior respiratory protection.
  - Don gown and minimize physical contact with the patient.
  - Cover areas of rash to minimize contact.
  - Proper donning and doffing technique of PPE and hand hygiene should be emphasized.
  - Handle waste and environmental infectious control in adherence with [CDC guidelines](#).
  - Utilize EMS Communications to relay information to hospital and initiate Isolation Alert
  - Notify your department leadership for guidance on notification protocols, which may include contacting local health department for further instructions and tracking purposes.
  - Contact healthcare provider immediately if concern for an exposure without proper precautions in place.
- Patient can be transported to the closest, most appropriate hospital per policy; no specialty resource hospital is identified.

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Medical Director



The above information is reviewed and compiled  
by the MCW Division of EMS Medicine