

## **K-12 Schools and Early Childhood Education (ECE) Recommendations for Mpox**

The Long Beach Health Department works closely with schools and ECEs to keep all students, staff and their families safe and healthy.

Although there have been recent cases in Long Beach and in California, the risk of mpox exposure at schools and ECEs remain low. However, settings should still be aware of current guidance and prepare for any possibility of a case.

Mpox can cause flu-like symptoms and a distinct rash with lesions that are usually painful. Persons with mpox are considered contagious when symptoms appear and until all skin lesions have healed (i.e., scabs have fallen off and a fresh layer of skin has formed at the lesion sites).

Mpox is primarily spread from person to person through direct skin to skin contact. It can also be spread through prolonged face-to-face contact and touching contaminated objects or surfaces. It is not likely to spread through casual contact. Unlike COVID, mpox does not spread through long distances in the air. Infection control practices already in place to prevent more common causes of illness will also help prevent mpox.

### **K-12 Schools and ECE Centers**

- **Routinely clean and disinfect** commonly touched items using appropriate products
- **Report** communicable diseases, including mpox, among students and staff to the Long Beach Health Department at 562-570-4302.
- **Coordinate** with the health department to conduct contact tracing and take other preventative measures to protect others from illness if needed.

### **Long Beach Health Department**

- **Inform** districts, schools, and ECEs of current guidance and recommendations to prevent others from becoming ill.
- **Vaccinate** priority groups to protect those at high-risk and prevent new mpox cases in our community. Mass vaccination among children is currently not necessary.
- **Coordinate** with district, schools, and ECEs when a mpox case has been identified.

## **K-12 Schools and Early Childhood Education (ECE) Recommendations for Mpox**

### **Parents, Students, and Staff:**

- **Self-screen** for symptoms daily, check for any rashes, and stay home when not feeling well.
- **Report** illness to school or ECE and check with doctor if symptoms are not improving.
- **Get vaccinated** for diseases that can cause fever, rash, and flu-like symptoms including: measles, chickenpox, flu, and COVID. Mpox vaccine is only recommended for those who have been exposed and are currently eligible for vaccination. Individuals at higher risk to mpox can speak with their healthcare provider about mpox vaccine or visit [longbeach.gov/mpox](https://longbeach.gov/mpox) for information on how to schedule a vaccine appointment