

DDP MONTHLY E-BULLETIN: SEPTEMBER 2024



VHARCC Training Calendar

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STD/Syphilis Updates

Requesting VDH Bicillin L-A™ to Treat Syphilis in a Pregnant Patient

Despite statewide efforts to combat the significant increase in cases of syphilis described in the [July 2024 VDH Clinician Letter](#), Virginia is on pace to exceed the number of congenital syphilis cases recorded in 2023. In an effort to avert cases of congenital syphilis, VDH has purchased a supply of Bicillin L-A™ to be made available to providers of pregnant patients with an identified syphilis infection.

If you are a provider who does not have access to Bicillin L-A™, or continue to experience a lack of Bicillin L-A™ resulting from the shortage which ended earlier this year, you can request VDH Bicillin L-A™ [via our REDCap link](#). You can also copy and paste the following link into your web browser: <https://redcap.link/vdhbic>.

The VDH Division of Pharmacy Services will dispense the medication and ship it directly to the provider for administration. Questions about requesting VDH Bicillin L-A™ can be directed to pharmacy@vdh.virginia.gov.

Mpox Updates

Updates on Clade I Monkeypox Virus

On August 6, 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [issued an update](#) on the outbreak of Clade I monkeypox virus (MPXV) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Clade I cases continue to be reported in countries bordering DRC. Other updates include:

- On August 14, 2024, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared mpox a [public health emergency of international concern](#) as a result of this outbreak and spread to neighboring countries.
- On August 15, 2024, the [Public Health Agency of Sweden](#) reported the first case of Clade I MPXV infection outside of Africa.

CDC recommends clinicians in the United States maintain a heightened level of suspicion for mpox in patients who present with signs and symptoms consistent with mpox who have recently been in DRC or any [country sharing a border with DRC](#). This includes Republic of the Congo, Angola, Zambia, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, South Sudan, and Central African Republic.

For more information about mpox, visit [VDH's mpox webpage](#).

JYNNEOS (mpox) Vaccine Available for Free to Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Clinics

There is renewed availability of the JYNNEOS vaccine from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) within the HHS Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) for the purposes of vaccinating at-risk patients against mpox. This joint ASPR/HRSA program is an opportunity to work with clinic teams to provide life-saving vaccine doses to individuals who can't otherwise afford to get them.

The SNS has a limited supply of JYNNEOS doses that expire on October 31, 2024. To help uninsured and underinsured individuals who would like to get vaccinated against mpox but have not yet due to cost and/or availability, ASPR began shipping, at no cost, JYNNEOS vaccine doses to health centers starting on September 9, 2024. These vaccines are intended for people who are at high risk of mpox disease and who do not have health care coverage to pay for the vaccines.

Because this limited supply of JYNNEOS doses expires on October 31, 2024, the first of two doses, provided four weeks apart, would need to be administered no later than October 3, 2024. Vaccines will be shipped refrigerated at 2-8C, which allows for 8 weeks of use post-thawing. Any leftover vaccine should be destroyed after October 31, 2024.

The vaccine will be shipped at a minimum order of 20 vials. SNS requests that orders be submitted between 6:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. (ET), Monday through Friday, to allow time for processing and shipment. In most cases, shipping will occur the day the request is made (Monday through Thursday), and Friday orders will ship the following Monday.

If your RWHAP clinic is interested in receiving JYNNEOS to support vaccinations prior to October 31, 2024, please contact sns.ops@hhs.gov with the following information:

- Receiving Location Name
- Receiving Location Address
- Receiving Location Hours of Operation
- Site Points of Contact (name, email, phone number), primary and alternate
- Quantity of Vials Requested
- Date Ready to Receive
- Any special instructions (hours available to receive, etc.)

The CDC website provides epidemiological information and clinical guidance about [mpox](#) and the [JYNNEOS vaccine](#); and the [Strategic National Stockpile](#) website provides information about available medical countermeasures and how to request them.

Delays in Fulfilling Condom Orders

Due to recent changes in grant funding, we are experiencing delays in fulfilling condom orders. We are working to resolve this issue and fulfill your orders as soon as possible. You will receive a notification once your order has been shipped.

As mentioned in the June DDP Ebulletin, Sarah Lannon, the Hotline Supervisor, and Condom Distribution Program Manager left VDH on May 31. While DDP works to fill that position, please continue sending all email messages and inquiries to hiv-stdhotline@vdh.virginia.gov. This is a shared mailbox monitored by several staff members.

As a friendly reminder, please inform us once you have received your order and confirm it is in good condition.

We appreciate your patience and ongoing support of the DDP Condom Distribution Program!



New HIV Reports Available Online

The HIV & Hepatitis Surveillance unit posted several updated reports:

- 2023 HIV Annual Report
- 2022 and 2023 HIV Continuum of Care in Virginia
- 2023 HIV Epi Profile section updates
 - Persons with HIV
 - New HIV Diagnoses

All reports and data for DDP are posted on the [Data and Reports page](#).

Personnel

Farewell

DDP bids a fond farewell to **Felencia McGee**. Felencia has worked in public health for 15 years, most recently as the Deputy Director for DDP. During her time at VDH she worked as the Syphilis Reactor Coordinator, HIV Case Surveillance Epi, Clinical HIV Testing Specialist, Clinical HIV Testing Coordinator, Health Promotional Coordinator, and the Director of HIV and Hepatitis Prevention. Her contributions to the division have been immeasurable, but notably she led the efforts on third-party billing and an STI clinical improvement project, both conducted in collaboration with the Office of Community Health Services. DDP wishes her luck on her new journey as she joins the CDC as a Project Officer. Felencia's last day with DDP will be September 27, 2024. After that time, please direct any questions that would go to Felencia to Diana Prat, Deputy Director, at diana.prat@vdh.virginia.gov.

HIV & Hepatitis Surveillance (HHS) bids farewell to **Lori Beck**. Lori joined HHS in September 2021 as the HIV Prevention Analyst and worked with the Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Resources and Linkages for Individuals Experiencing Incarceration (CHARLII), comprehensive harm reduction, status neutral service navigation, and PrEP teams primarily. Lori's last day with HHS is September 20. Lori will remain at VDH but will be working in the Office of Family Health Services, Division of Population Health as the Senior Substance Use Epidemiologist. Any questions that would normally go to Lori can be sent to Lauren Maxwell at lauren.maxwell@vdh.virginia.gov.

Employment Opportunities

Employment opportunities are listed on jobs.virginia.gov. Additionally, current contract positions are listed on the [DDP website](#).

Please visit either site to see detailed information for available positions.