



National Office  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

May 27, 2022

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear CDC:

I am writing in regard to the monkeypox outbreak that is currently under investigation. On 21 May 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to notify public health partners and clinicians about the first confirmed case of monkeypox in the United States, that is likely linked to clusters of monkeypox that have recently been reported in several countries and initial evidence suggested that cases occurring among men who have sex with men may be epidemiologically linked. Following the release of the HAN, potential cases of monkeypox have been identified in several other states. Thus, the investigation of this outbreak will require a coordinated multi-state and jurisdictional investigation, as well as specialized assistance and resources to adequately respond. The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) strongly supports a centrally coordinated multi-state and jurisdictional investigation of this monkeypox outbreak and recommends multi-state technical assistance from CDC.

A multi-state coordinated investigation of monkeypox led by the CDC will assist each state/local/territory jurisdiction in making rapid, practical decisions for actions to prevent and control the public health problem. This approach will streamline and strengthen the response, as opposed to multiple state and jurisdictional investigations independently assessing this relationship and developing their own risk assessment. Additionally, a vital component of this response will be the development of a standardized case report form with the inclusion of sensitive information including the collection of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression (SOGIE) data. CSTE strongly supports the inclusion of SOGIE data as an aspect of this public health investigation.

Each jurisdiction participating in the multi-jurisdictional response would retain ownership of and is responsible for all data collected within their state.

Sincerely,

Janet Hamilton, MPH  
Executive Director  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists