



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A MEETING OF THE COOK COUNTY HEALTH AND HOSPITALS COMMITTEE TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ON MPV (MONKEYPOX) IN SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, in May 2022, cases of MPV started appearing in Europe with the first case appearing the U.S. on May 19, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the virus has spread globally and cases have totaled 3,591 cases in the U.S. by July 26, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared MPV a global health emergency on July 23, 2022 and;

WHEREAS, in the U.S., Illinois has consistently been in the top three states with the highest cases since the start of this outbreak with a concentration in the Chicago area; and

WHEREAS, MPV is a viral zoonosis (a virus transmitted to humans from animals) with symptoms similar to those seen in the past in smallpox patients, although it is clinically less severe. Human-to-human transmission can result from close contact with respiratory secretions, skin lesions of an infected person or recently contaminated objects. Transmission via droplet respiratory particles usually requires prolonged face-to-face contact; and

WHEREAS, a two-dose vaccine is available for MPV that was previously developed and is highly effective in reducing severity of illness but supplies remain limited; and

WHEREAS, the limited supply of vaccine, at this time, has reduced eligibility for receiving the vaccine to very few individuals with confirmed cases or known exposure from close contacts; and

WHEREAS, at this time, a disproportionate amount of cases have affected the LGBTQ+ community; and

WHEREAS, given the history of stigma and discrimination against LGBTQ+ people during the 1980s/90s HIV/AIDS crisis, all public health entities need to prioritize combatting misinformation and disinformation that can perpetuate the targeting of a marginalized community; and

WHEREAS, although MPV is not spread in the same way nor has it caused deaths in the U.S. thus far, public health officials should nonetheless use every resource acquired and every lesson learned from the COVID-19 pandemic to combat this virus and control its spread; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Health and Hospitals Committee convene a meeting to discuss the Cook County Department of Public Health's MPV response for Suburban Cook County and coordination with the Chicago Department of Public Health; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Department of Public Health, Chicago Department of Public Health and community-based organizations working to combat this virus attend this meeting to discuss their MPV response and planning.