

County of Santa Clara

Public Health Department

Public Health Administration
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DATE: Oct. 12, 2022

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, MD, JD, County Executive

FROM: Sara H. Cody, MD, Health Officer and Director *SHC*

SUBJECT: Affordability of MPX testing

At the September 21, 2022 meeting of the Health and Hospital Committee (Item No. 6), Supervisor Lee requested an off-agenda report relating to the availability and affordability of testing for MPX (also known as “monkeypox”). This report responds to that request.

Testing for MPX is available at no cost in Santa Clara County in multiple ways through the County Health System. First, any individual can seek comprehensive Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) care and evaluation at the Public Health Department’s STI Clinic at 976 Lenzen Avenue in San José. The normal flat fee for STI testing services, including MPX testing, is \$40 for adults and \$5 for youth, age 12 -17. However, this fee can be waived anytime upon request if a patient states that cost would be a barrier to care. Individuals experiencing symptoms that may be related to MPX should either contact their healthcare provider for an evaluation, or call 408-792-3720 to make an appointment at the County’s STI Clinic.

The other mechanism through which no cost MPX testing can be accessed through the County Health System is for patients of Santa Clara Valley Healthcare (SCVH)¹ who seek testing through their primary care provider or appropriate urgent or emergency care venues. For SCVH patients, SCVH does not charge for MPX

¹ Formerly known as Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Hospitals and Clinics, Santa Clara Valley Healthcare refers to the County’s hospitals and system of primary care and specialty clinics.

specimen collection and will cover the cost of any copay that is not covered by third party payors for the test itself. While it is possible that the medical evaluation related to MPX may have associated costs due to *other* testing that might be ordered (e.g. other tests associated with evaluation of a new rash or other MPX symptoms), the MPX test collection and test performance does not incur any cost to patients at SCVH clinics.

cc: Dr. Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive
Greta S. Hansen, Chief Operating Officer
James R. Williams, County Counsel
Tiffany Lennear, Clerk of the Board
Dr. Sarah Rudman, Deputy Public Health Officer
Dr. Ahmad Kamal, Healthcare Preparedness Branch Director
Chief Board Aides