

# Health Disparities Task Force Meeting |MINUTES

August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 , / 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by:	Division of Health Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 92 ppl
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force - Infectious Disease 7	
Facilitator:	Elizabeth Hart, Director Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement	

**Motivational Quote:** (Elizabeth Hart) “One piece of log creates a small fire, adequate to warm you up, add just a few more pieces to blast an immense bonfire, large enough to warm up your entire circle of friends; needless to say, that individuality counts but teamwork dynamites.” – Anonymous

**Announcements:** (Elizabeth Hart)

- Health Equity Book Series Event, scheduled **Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 1PM** – Author: Dr. Beverly Tatum “Why All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria”. You should have received an email from OFBCE, link registry for the health equity book series event. The book is noted in audio and the link for registration is noted below, please share with your network: <https://tn.webex.com/tn/j.php?RGID=r201e8f939ee4170ad7c2985592933e5d>
- An invitation to become a TN Health Disparities Task Force Member, was extended to all newcomers. To become a member, one must complete the red cap survey, which will allow individuals to attend scheduled meetings every Thursday at 1PM. The discussions consist of Chronic Disease, Mental Health, Environmental Health/Environmental Justice and Infectious Disease. The Task Force also includes the Health Equity Book Series. If anyone like become a member, please [Click here!](#)
- TN Department of Health is a great resource for all, and you can take time to view our past presentations at [www.healthdisparitiestn.com](http://www.healthdisparitiestn.com);
- Every household can order COVID-19 Test. The test is available to receive by mail, with free shipping, you may go to [COVID.gov/tests](https://www.covid.gov/tests) - [Free at-home COVID-19 tests](#) or call 1.800.232.0233.

## TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

**Focus:** Monkey Pox also known as MPX

**Presenter:** Julie Shaffner, Epidemiologist of Emergency Preparedness Program and Dr. Caitlin Newhouse, Medical Director for Vaccine Preventable Diseases Program TN Department of Health

**Summary:** This presentation provides information regarding the Monkey Pox Disease, which is deep-seated pustular painful, itchy, and highly infectious lesions. There are different strains of MPX, and this strain is not in the US as we know at this time. The signs and symptoms are 99% rash, malaise, fever and lymphadenopathy (swollen lymph nodes). Monkey Pox can last up to 2- 4 weeks. Monkey Pox was discovered in 1958 and in Central and West Africa. Monkey Pox is considered an Orthopoxvirus, cousin to variola, smallpox and cowpox. As of August 17, 2022, nearly 40,000 Monkey Pox cases have been detected globally, an estimate of 14,000 cases in the US. Tennessee first case was detected July 2022 and 99 cases have been found across the state so far. Monkey Pox spreads through direct skin to skin, intimate and face to face contact and bodily fluids or indirect contact with items that have been contaminated with fluids or sores on clothing or bedding, that have not been disinfected.

Everyone is prone to this disease adults, adolescents, children and even pregnant women. People living with HIV might be at an even higher risk due to severity and prolonged disease. MPX Testing is a PCR Test with a swab over the rash and lesions, to receive MPX Testing you must call your primary care doctor. to receive. Treatment available is called TPOX, which is a Smallpox treatment, and there are also (2) products of vaccine both licensed for smallpox. The vaccines are ACAM2000 and JYNNEOS. The ACAM2000 has huge supply and JYNNEOS, is very limited supply, receive (2) doses, 28 days apart. MPX Vaccine is only available at your local Health Departments.

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#### **Member Comments: Announcements and Upcoming Events**

- If anyone like become a TN Health Disparities Task Force member, please [Click here!](#)

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#### **Resources mentioned during call:**

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#### **Chat Box – links / website / events: [**

- <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/18/fact-sheet-white-house-announces-new-actions-to-combat-monkeypox-outbreak/>

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**Next Meeting: Thursday, June 24, 2021, from 1pm-2pm via Microsoft Teams.**

**Microsoft Teams Meeting details are as follows:**

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

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Phone Conference ID: 221 274 636#