



## A Message from Rita Wong

Greetings and welcome to our first Public Health Reserve Corps newsletter created for you, the public servants of the State of California who want to make a difference in the future of this state's health and wellbeing. I am honored to be among a group of volunteers who want to make the people of their community a priority.

This is the first issue of our newsletter designed to keep you up to date and “in the know” about public health. In this issue, you will be given updates on what the state of our state looks like today; peruse the Science Corner where we share articles of interest that are important for you to remain abreast of; plus we will provide you with any reminders or resources that might be of assistance to you.

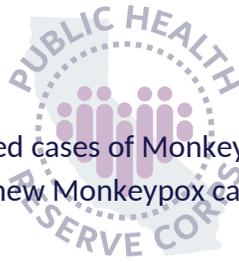


I look forward to chatting with you all at our first Community of Practice meeting scheduled for this Thursday, July 14th at 1:00. Our teams have worked hard to put together a valuable session that we feel you will really enjoy. Together we will be ready to respond to any health or state emergency we are called upon to assist with but as any emergency group would say, “We hope we are never needed.”

*Respectfully, Rita Wong*

Public Health Reserve Corps Program Director

# State of the State



## Monkeypox

- As of July 7, 2022, 141 probable and confirmed cases of Monkeypox have been reported in California.<sup>1</sup> Local health jurisdictions (LHJs) are responding to new Monkeypox cases across the state. CDPH is providing support to LHJs based on requests received.

## COVID-19 Updates

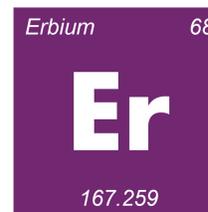
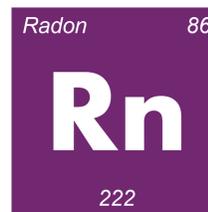
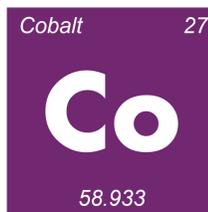
- Since April 2022, COVID-19 cases, test positivity, and hospitalizations have continued to increase across California, while deaths have remained low (with an average of <0.1 deaths per 100,000 population across the last seven days).<sup>2</sup>
- The vaccination rate has held steady, with approximately 71% of people in California fully vaccinated. The rate of vaccination differs by LHJ, with a high of 92% and low of 30% of the jurisdiction's population completing the primary vaccine series – Imperial County has the highest vaccination rate in the state (92%).<sup>3</sup>
- LHJs are prioritizing disproportionately affected populations, congregate settings, and children under five years old for COVID-19 outbreak investigations.
- COVID-19 mitigation efforts have been particularly challenging in children under five years old, due to parental vaccine hesitancy and lack of masking. Severe symptoms in this age group have increased with new variants.
- Recent COVID-19 outbreaks have been connected to travel abroad as well as community events (such as prom and graduation). With this community spread, disproportionately affected populations are hit the hardest.
- The health and wellness of people who are experiencing homelessness or who are unstably housed remains a public health priority. Partnerships with Bay Area hotels to offer accommodations for people diagnosed with COVID-19 continue to provide critical support.
- People who have been reached by a case investigator have been receptive and appreciative of long-COVID information. Hesitancy and resistance to hear about vaccine information continues to be a common observation made by case investigators.

## Other Emerging Topics

- Amador and Calaveras Counties have reported a wildfire – named the Electra Fire – possibly sparked by fireworks over the Fourth of July holiday weekend. As of July 12, 2022, the Electra fire had burned over 4,400 acres and at least 100 residents in communities near the fire along the Mokelumne River, Southeast of Jackson, have been evacuated.<sup>4</sup>
- Mariposa County has reported a wildfire – named the Washburn Fire – which began on July 7, 2022. This fire near Yosemite National Park has burned over 3,000 acres.<sup>5</sup>

## Data sources:

1. Monkeypox in California, California Department of Public Health. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Monkeypox.aspx>
2. Tracking COVID-19 in California Dashboard. <https://covid19.ca.gov/state-dashboard/>
3. Vaccination data, California. <https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccination-progress-data/>
4. Electra Fire Incident, CAL FIRE. <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2022/7/4/electra-fire/>
5. Washburn Fire Incident, CAL FIRE. <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2022/7/7/washburn-fire/>



***Although the sudden emergence of monkeypox can be alarming after two years of living through the COVID-19 pandemic, monkeypox is not a new virus and does not spread in the same way as COVID-19. The current risk of getting monkeypox is low.***

## What are the signs and symptoms?

### MONKEYPOX

- Rash with firm bumps on face, hands, feet, body, or genitals
- Fever
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Chills
- Low energy

### COVID-19

- Fever
- Cough
- Trouble breathing
- Stomach issues
- Headaches
- Muscle aches
- Loss of taste and smell
- Cold symptoms

For more information on transmission, prevention and treatment visit:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/Communications-Toolkits/Monkeypox.aspx>

# *A Few Reminders Before You Go...*

## **Community of Practice**

an ongoing support forum for  
The California Public Health Reserve Corps

Don't miss our  
first one!!



## **Quarterly CoP Meeting**

**Thursday, July 14, 1:00-2:00pm**

### **On the Agenda:**

Epidemiology and Science Updates

HR and Logistics Q&A

Community Building Activity

**All PHRC members welcomed & encouraged  
to attend - regardless of activation status.**

**Need an invitation? Contact [Pilar.Deer@ucsf.edu](mailto:Pilar.Deer@ucsf.edu).**

Have a question or concern about  
your Public Health Reserve Corps  
work? Do not hesitate to reach out  
to [PHRCsupport@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:PHRCsupport@cdph.ca.gov)