



St. Lawrence County Public Health Department

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Date: 10/14/2022

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monkeypox Services No Longer Require Parental Consent for Minors

Canton, NY— On October 6th, New York State Public Health and Health Planning Council voted to add monkeypox to the list of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The amendment was adopted as an emergency regulation and is in effect for 90 days, with the possibility of extension.

In New York State, minors under 18 years old generally cannot access vaccination, testing, or treatment without consent from a parent or guardian. STIs represent an exception. **This action was proposed by the New York State Department of Health as a means of ensuring that minors under the age of 18 can consent to their own monkeypox related services.**

New York State took similar actions in 2016 and 2017 for HPV and HIV. Especially for LGBTQ+ minors, not all parents or guardians are aware or accepting that their child is sexually active with potential risk behaviors, in which some youth may avoid seeking treatment they need. **This regulation addresses this barrier, minors can seek and receive their own testing, vaccination, and other preventative care services related to monkeypox without parental or custodial consent.**

Minors under the age of 18 who are seeking monkeypox related services **must not be turned away due to lack of parental or custodial consent.** Anyone who attends a monkeypox vaccination clinic and identifies as at risk for monkeypox should receive the monkeypox vaccine.

St. Lawrence County Public Health is offering monkeypox vaccination clinics to the community. Vaccination sites include the colleges as well as within our office. To check out when our next clinic will be, visit our website <https://stlawco.org/Departments/PublicHealth> or call 315-386-2325 for more information or assistance.

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