



City of Palm Springs

Lisa Middleton, Mayor

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July 20, 2022

Thomas J. Aragon, M.D., Dr. P.H.
Director, California Department of Public Health
Director's Office, MS 0500
PO Box 997377
Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95899

Sent via Email

Director Aragon, M.D., Dr. P.H.

This letter is written to urge you to shift strategy in the acquisition and distribution of Monkeypox vaccines. The City of Palm Springs understands that supplies of the vaccine are woefully limited and are currently distributed in California on a population-based formula.

The first priority of the CDC and CDPH ought to be to greatly accelerate the purchase of Monkeypox vaccines. As we have recently experienced with more than two years of COVID-19, vaccination is critically important to reducing severity of disease and reducing transmission.

The second priority of the CDC and CDPH ought to be to shift the strategy for the distribution of vaccines. The City of Palm Springs urges CDPH to prioritize vaccine distribution first to those communities already experiencing a high rate of incidence of Monkeypox and second to communities with populations more likely to contract and transmit the disease.

The City of Palm Springs is particularly concerned that transmission of Monkeypox is more prevalent in instances in sexual contact, especially men having sex with men. Palm Springs is an international sex tourist destination. Regardless of population size, people are traveling here and one of the unique reasons is sex. Please consider:

- As of 7/15 there are 177 sex workers advertising online.
- The Coachella Valley has 11 sex clubs; LA has 4. San Diego has 2.
- Those 11 sex clubs have 32 sex events scheduled this summer.
- The average sex event sees 400 people.
- The region's largest sex club sees 5000 guests a month.
- 1.2M LGBT people visit the Coachella Valley annually.
- HIV prevalence rate:
 - LA County: 595 per 100K (2022)

- San Diego County: 472 per 100K (2022)
- Coachella Valley: 1,459 per 100K (2020)

It is imperative that the CDC and CDPH work quickly to make these and any other necessary adjustments to better meet demand for vaccines and ensure the threat of Monkeypox is mitigated in our communities.

Warmest Regards,



Lisa Middleton

Mayor of Palm Springs

CC: Governor Gavin Newsom
Senator Melisa Melendez
Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins
Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon
Congressman Raul Ruiz