The Federal Mpox Response: A Snapshot

In August 2024, the World Health Organization declared mpox *(formerly known as monkeypox)* a global health emergency for the second time in two years. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a health alert with information about the latest outbreak. U.S. federal research and public health agencies are preparing for a possible future outbreak in the U.S., supporting ongoing research, regulation, policy coordination, and health care services that are crucial to managing an mpox outbreak and preventing future cases in the U.S.

Following is a brief look at the roles the White House Office of Pandemic Preparedness and Response (OPPR) and the Department of Health and Human Services are playing in this effort. Representative rather than exhaustive, this brief is intended to illustrate the scope and significance of the federal role when infectious threats like mpox emerge.

White House Office of Pandemic Preparedness and Response Policy (OPPR): As the White House Office charged with ensuring cross-agency collaboration in response to pandemics and other biological threats, OPPR is working behind the scenes to facilitate a coordinated federal response to mpox. OPPR Website

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): The CDC remains at the forefront of monitoring mpox cases, offering updated guidance on vaccination, treatment, and prevention. The CDC collaborates with local health departments to ensure they have the necessary resources for effective public health responses. CDC Mpox Resources

Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR): ASPR is crucial in ensuring the distribution of vaccines, providing resources and educational materials to high-risk communities, and disseminating medical countermeasures originally developed to treat smallpox, a similar virus to mpox. It has deployed the JYNNEOS vaccine through the Strategic National Stockpile, focusing on equitable access for the most affected communities. ASPR also plays a significant role in coordinating the distribution of treatments and other medical resources. ASPR Mpox Resources

- ***The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA):*** BARDA plays a key role in the federal response to mpox by developing, stockpiling, and distributing vaccines like JYNNEOS and supporting the development of therapeutics such as tecovirimat (TPOXX). They also collaborate with private-sector partners to accelerate research and ensure rapid deployment of these medical countermeasures during outbreaks.

National Institutes of Health (NIH):

- ***National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)*** is deeply involved in research related to mpox. This includes studying the virus' transmission, clinical effects, and long-term consequences. NIH supports clinical trials for new treatments and continues to investigate potential vaccine improvements to enhance protection against mpox. NIAID Mpox Resources

Food and Drug Administration (FDA): The FDA is playing a multi-faceted role in mpox response, including expediting the development, evaluation, and availability of medical interventions and protecting against fraudulent treatments and technologies. The FDA has issued emergency use authorizations (EUAs) to expedite the availability of safe and effective products, ensuring they are accessible to the public as quickly as possible. FDA Mpox Resources

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH): Under HHS, OASH coordinates public health policy to ensure that mpox-related efforts are aligned with broader national health goals. OASH Mpox Resources

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS): Among its many contributions to public health preparedness and response, CMS has worked to ensure that health care providers can offer mpox-related services, such as vaccination and treatment, to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries that have been directly exposed to mpox. CMS Mpox Resources