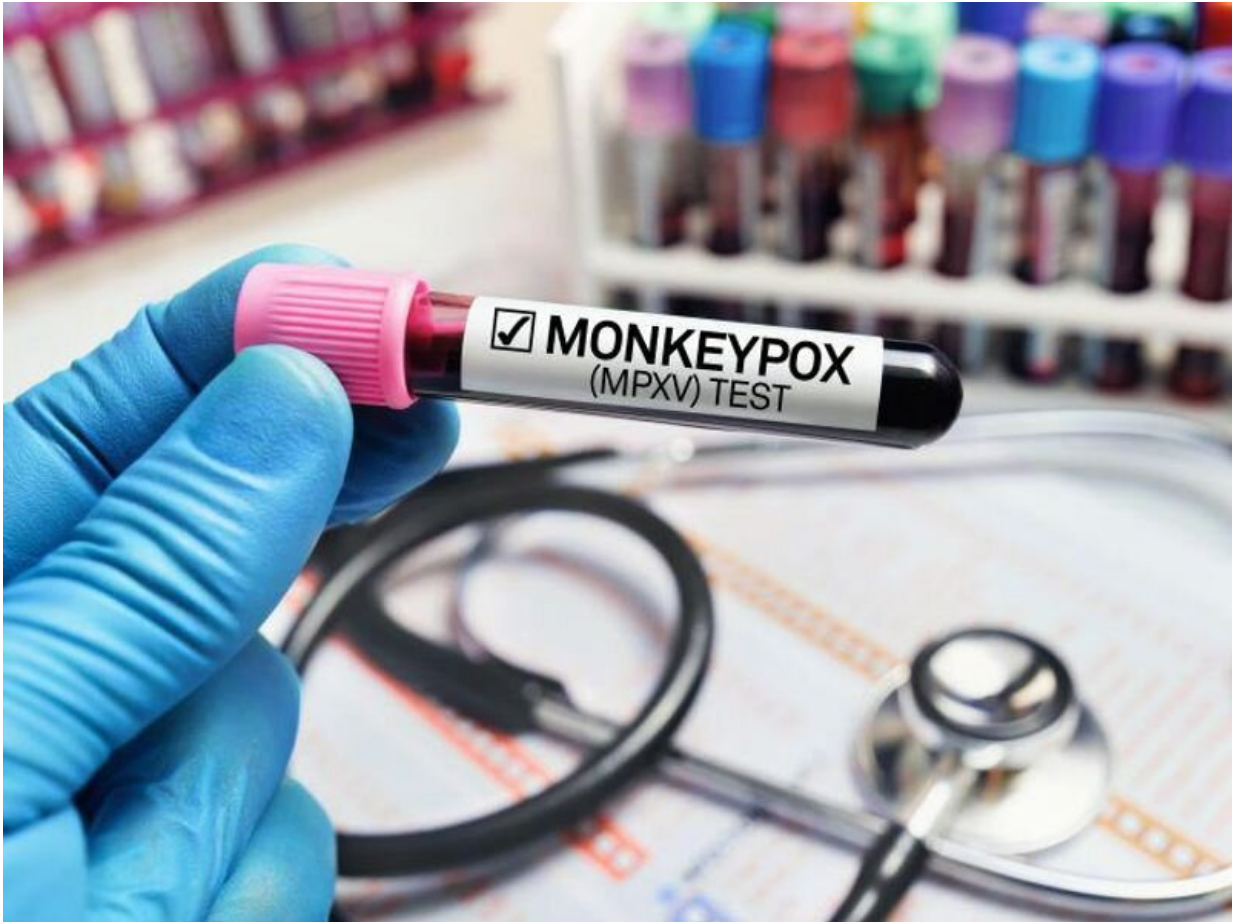


US monkeypox cases are declining

September 2 2022



While the number of Americans with known [monkeypox](#) infections is dropping, that may signal what's happening in big cities, experts say.

It is *not* the end of the outbreak, they warn.

Cases are down about 40% in the United States, an *NBC News* analysis finds. The seven-day average of new reported cases had a daily average of 281 on Aug. 31, down from 465 on Aug. 10.

Still, that drop is "only one measure" of what's happening, Dr. Bruce Lee, a professor of health policy and management at the City University of New York Graduate School of Public Health, told *NBC News*.

"What we really want to know is the geographic spread of the virus," Lee said.

The first monkeypox cases in this outbreak were reported in May. The United States has [reported](#) over 19,400 cases since then. About 16,200 cases were reported in August alone.

Now, reductions in reported cases in metropolises like Los Angeles and New York City are driving a downward shift.

That may be because of measures taken by those most at risk of contracting the virus, which are men who have sex with men and their [sexual partners](#). [Research](#) from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has shown a 50% reduction in risky hookups, Dr. Jay Varma, director of the Center for Pandemic Prevention and Response at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City, told *NBC News*.

This demographic "take their health seriously," Varma said. "This is born of experience with the HIV epidemic and intensive activism."

In addition, [health officials](#) had [administered](#) over 352,000 doses of [monkeypox vaccine](#) to high-risk groups by late August.

World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a news [briefing](#) that as cases fall in European countries, the virus may be eliminated, at least in Europe.

"This is an outbreak that can be stopped," Tedros said.

More information: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has more on [monkeypox](#).

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