Isolation instructions for PUI/positive Monkey Pox

- Patients should isolate until all lesions have resolved, the scabs have fallen off, and a fresh layer of intact skin has formed.
- People with monkeypox should adhere to these recommendations until cleared by public health:
  1. Do not leave the home except as required for emergencies or follow-up medical care.
  2. Persons without an essential need to be in the home should not visit.
  3. Avoid close contact with others.
  4. Avoid close contact with pets in the home.
  5. Abstain from all sexual activity.
  6. Do not share items that could be contaminated by the lesions (e.g., bed linens, clothing, towels, wash cloths). Do not share drinking glasses or eating utensils.
  7. Routinely clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces and items (e.g., counters, light switches) using an EPA-registered disinfectant in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
  8. Wear a well-fitting mask or respirator for source control when in close contact with others at home.
  9. Avoid use of contact lenses to prevent inadvertent infection of the eye.
 10. Avoid shaving areas of the body with lesions as this can lead to spread of the virus.

- Bathroom usage:
  1. If possible, use a separate bathroom if there are others who live in the same household.
  2. If there is not a separate bathroom in the home, the patient should clean and disinfect surfaces (e.g., counters, toilet seats, faucets) using an EPA-registered household cleaning product after using a shared space if the lesions are exposed (e.g., showering, toileting, changing bandages covering the lesions). Consider disposable glove use while cleaning if lesions are present on the hands.
  3. Please refer to CDC’s Home Infection Control page. Infection Control: Home | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC

- Limit exposure to others:
  1. Avoid contact with unaffected individuals until lesions have resolved, the scabs have fallen off, and a fresh layer of intact skin has formed.
  2. Isolate in a room or area separate from other household members and pets when possible.

- Limit use of spaces, items, and food that are shared with other household members.
  1. Do not share dishes and other eating utensils. It is not necessary for the infected person to use separate utensils if properly washed. Wash soiled dishes and eating utensils in a dishwasher or by hand with warm water and soap.

- Limit contamination within household:
  1. Avoid direct contact with upholstered furniture and porous materials that cannot be laundered by placing coversheets, waterproof mattress covers, blankets, or tarps over these surfaces. Additional precautions such as steam cleaning can be considered if there is concern about contamination.