



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

TODD GLORIA

MAYOR

July 15, 2022

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
U.S Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dr. Rochelle Walensky
Director
U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Secretary Becerra and Director Walensky,

On behalf of the City of San Diego, I am writing with serious concern regarding the alarming spread of the monkeypox virus. The City, in working with our partners at the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency, is worried about the shortage of vaccine doses and limited access to monkeypox testing and treatment in our community. We are formally requesting U.S. Health and Human Services prioritize San Diego County for additional monkeypox vaccine.

Currently, there is an overwhelming and unmet demand for the monkeypox vaccine nationally, but also in San Diego County. The San Diego region is a growing hotspot with six cases thus far. We appreciate the 600 vaccine doses that have been sent to our region to date, but that number was quickly distributed and we request additional doses to help us meet the overwhelming demand and stop the spread, especially for at risk populations. In addition, we request that any regulatory streamlining that can be done to help quicken the dissemination of vaccines and other antiviral medications be pursued.

Our community has learned a great deal in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The current monkeypox outbreak disproportionately affects our LGBTQI community and therefore we urge more resources be sent to our community to stop the spread. Just as we learned during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when we have easily accessible testing and vaccination campaigns, we can show positive progress against threats to public health.

Again, I respectfully request that San Diego County be prioritized for additional monkeypox vaccine. Thank you for everything you do to help communities like ours. We look forward to working together with the Biden Administration on this vital issue. Time is of the essence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Gloria". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

TODD GLORIA
Mayor
City of San Diego