

What's Going Around: A Communicable Disease Report

Diseases and conditions reported during Feb. 18 – March 2, 2024:

This report is a bimonthly snapshot of communicable diseases reported in El Paso County, as well as a report of disease trends and local health alerts. El Paso County Public Health's (EPCPH) Communicable Disease Program partners with the medical community and the public to limit and reduce the spread of diseases in our community.

Reportable diseases and conditions:

- 7 Animal Bites – 3 pediatric, 4 adults; 0 recommended to receive rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
- 3 Campylobacteriosis – adults
- 2 Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacterales (CRE) - adults
- 36 COVID-19, hospitalized – 1 pediatric, 35 adults
- 2 Giardiasis – adults
- 2 Mpox - adults
- 4 Invasive Strep Pneumoniae – 1 pediatric, 3 adults
- 3 Pertussis – 1 pediatric, 2 adults
- 24 RSV, hospitalized – 15 pediatric, 9 adults
- 2 Shigellosis – adults
- 2 STEC (Shiga Toxin Producing E.coli) - adults

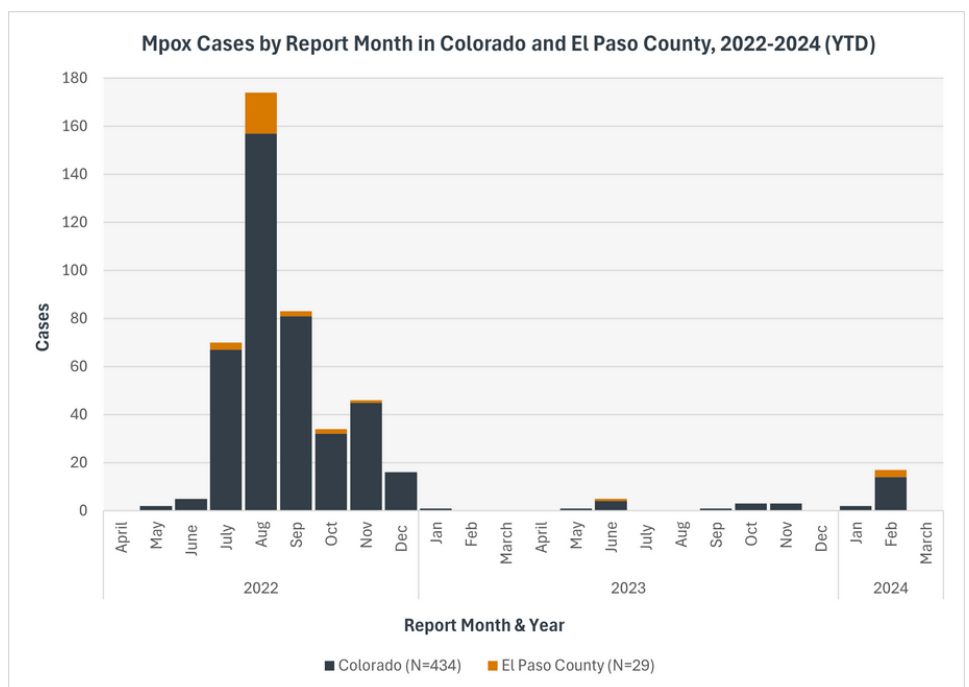
For a list of reportable diseases and conditions and instructions on how to report, use this [link](#).

Additional reports:

- Animals positive for rabies 2024 Year to Date: 0
 - Hospitalized Influenza since Oct.1, 2023: 456 Total (355 Influenza A, 87 Influenza B, and 14 Unsubtyped)
 - Outbreaks reported:
 - 2 COVID-19 outbreaks associated with schools and child care facilities
 - 1 hand, foot, and mouth disease outbreak associated with a child care facility
 - 3 influenza outbreaks associated with schools and child care facilities
 - 1 norovirus outbreaks associated with a long-term care facility
 - 4 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) outbreaks associated with schools and child care facilities, and a long-term care facility
 - 2 unknown gastrointestinal (GI) illness outbreaks associated with a school and a long-term care facility
- *COVID-19 outbreaks in LTCF are not included in this summary

Health News: Increased cases of mpox in El Paso County

- Three cases of mpox have been reported in El Paso County, Colorado since February 14, 2024. No patients have reported travel outside of El Paso County or Colorado.
- Mpox cases have also been reported from Denver and Mesa Counties since Jan. 1, 2024. These cases have no epidemiologic linkage or travel history, suggesting that occult mpox transmission is likely occurring around the state.
- All recent mpox cases in Colorado had not received JYNNEOS vaccine.
- Clinicians should continue to test for mpox in patients with clinically compatible illness, even those who were vaccinated against mpox or have previously had an mpox infection.
 - Tecovirimat (TPOXX) is considered the first-line treatment option for people with suspect or diagnosed mpox and who are at increased risk for severe disease or illness complications. A provider should seek access to TPOXX by facilitating patient enrollment in the STOMP trial by calling 1-855-876-9997; remote enrollment is now available. Patients no longer need to have severe disease or be at high risk of severe illness to enroll in this study. Information about the STOMP trial is notated below.
 - Contact Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) medical epidemiologists Monday to Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at tpoxx@state.co.us or call 303-370-9395 after hours or on weekends to discuss treatment options.
 - Providers who suspect mpox infection can test patients through commercial laboratories and should report those cases to public health prior to receiving test results back. Mpox is a four-day reportable disease, and all cases must be reported by laboratories and health care providers. Prompt reporting of suspect cases will allow public health to assist providers and patients with accessing TPOXX. Providers can call El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) during regular business hours at 719-578-3220 or after hours at 719-235-2278.
- Individuals interested in receiving JYNNEOS vaccine can call the EPCPH Immunization Program at 719-578-3199, option 5 to schedule an appointment. Vaccine is available at no charge.



For further information regarding evaluation, testing, treatment, recommendations, and guidance, please see the full [Health Advisory](#).

Questions? Please Contact:

El Paso County Public Health CD/TB Program
Hours: M-F, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
(719) 578-3220; after-hours emergency: (719) 235-2278
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
(303) 692-2700; after-hours emergency: (303) 370-9395
www.elpasocountyhealth.org
Reportable Diseases and Conditions List