



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

July 11, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the City of New York, I want to extend my gratitude to you and the Biden Administration for the strong partnership as we respond to the current outbreak of monkeypox. As the US city with the current highest number of orthopoxvirus/monkeypox cases, your continued support is vital in facilitating our ability to best protect New Yorkers. Thank you again for the successful joint press conference with New York City Health Department leadership at our Central Harlem Sexual Health Clinic; this further demonstrated our ongoing collaboration – both for New Yorkers and for all Americans – as we face this outbreak together.

As you saw firsthand, there is an overwhelming and unmet demand in New York City for the JYNNEOS™ monkeypox vaccine. New York City is the epicenter of this outbreak, but this also means we have been at the forefront of the response for the entire country. While we appreciate the approximately 7,000 vaccine doses that have been sent to New York City thus far, and the approximately 14,500 vaccine doses we expect to receive by the end of the week, we urgently need far more to slow spread and protect at risk populations. Within less than 10 minutes of releasing new appointments for our vaccine clinics last week, all appointments were taken.

As we have discussed, allocation of vaccine must be proportionate to the case numbers we are currently seeing here on the ground. As of today, New York City now has more than 223 cases—more than any other part of the US—and we know this is an undercount due to limited testing capacity nationwide. We have more than 20% of the current US cases and yet have only received approximately 10% of the vaccine allocation in this first tranche. New York City is bearing the burden of monkeypox, and thus, we need a more adequate proportion of the tools that more heavily accounts for our current case burden, especially since testing remains relatively low nationwide.

In addition to needing more vaccine immediately, we also need to better understand how allocations are being made so we can plan for the future and communicate about this with New

Yorkers. The current piecemeal approach to relaying allocation amounts, by phase, makes it incredibly challenging to plan and communicate in a thoughtful, evidence- and equity-driven way. While this virus is very different, we learned this lesson during the earliest days of COVID-19: transparency, honesty, and expectation setting are critical to building and maintaining trust within the community during times of fear and concern in the face of a new (to the US) contagious illness.

We remain fiercely committed to centering equity in this strategy and we know that you share this commitment. But in order to do that, we must ensure that we can expand our current vaccine access footprint to more people, in more neighborhoods, through more partners and providers. Reaching all communities with extreme supply constraints is unrealistic.

We also urge you to consider alternative vaccine schedules, utilizing a longer interval between the first and second dose, that would allow more of the immediately available vaccine to be used for first doses. Our health experts note that during a period when the national monkeypox vaccination program is focused on post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and expanded PEP, evidence shows that the immune response to a first dose of JYNNEOS is similar to that of ACAM2000 at 2 weeks, further supporting this approach. Other countries are taking this approach in the current environment of severe supply shortages, and thus, we urge consideration of this approach for the United States as well.

None of this equity-driven expansion to vaccine access is possible without a significantly increased allocation of vaccine. To this end, we request that you send New York City as much vaccine as possible, as quickly as possible and that the White House do everything in its power to speed up the delivery of additional vaccine doses to the US.

We will continue to work with community partners, trusted messengers, and advocates to ensure people have accurate information about monkeypox, take the necessary precautions for prevention, and can access testing, vaccination, and treatment resources as we get more vaccine supply.

We thank you again for your continued partnership, and your commitment to ensuring our communities remain safe and healthy. In turn, we remain committed partners in advancing the Biden-Harris Administration's agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Adams" clearly distinguishable.

Eric Adams  
Mayor