

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2022

Contact: Jim Newman, jim@amprogress.org

Americans for Medical Progress Statement on Monkeypox Outbreak

Infectious disease outbreaks are serious public health issues. Therefore, at-risk individuals should be informed of all disease outbreaks. This applies to the seasonal flu and also unique, new disease challenges, such as COVID-19. In every case, two critical factors should always be weighed by the public: the seriousness of the disease for those who become infected and the transmissibility risk. Monkeypox can and has caused serious disease in previous outbreaks, such as a small cluster of cases in Wisconsin in 2003. However, it does not spread anywhere as easily as other infectious diseases. This is why vaccination and quarantine have been highly effective in controlling past outbreaks. We firmly believe it's highly likely the current cases that have arisen in the United States can also be resolved using these same tested tools.

While monkeypox - like all other disease risks - must be taken seriously, Americans for Medical Progress is aware of campaigns by animal rights groups to weaponize this limited outbreak. Groups have sent out communications seeking to frighten an already traumatized public, falsely suggesting monkeypox came from research animals. They have also proposed an immediate end to animal studies to "eliminate the threat" they are heavily promoting. These attempts are the worst form of fear mongering. They also defy logic.

Several disease epidemics have been prevented, diminished and even ended thanks to vaccines created through the necessary study of animals. Examples include chickenpox, smallpox, diphtheria, polio and Ebola. In the case of COVID-19, tens of thousands of deaths have been prevented by the currently available vaccines. Therefore, animal research opponents' proposal to end animal studies would actually increase risk, not diminish it.

AMP applauds the dedicated public health experts and scientists currently responding to the monkeypox outbreak and providing the public with fact-based data. We encourage those seeking information to obtain it from these trusted sources and reject attempts from special interest groups to capitalize from the situation.

Additional Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [Monkeypox Information](#)

UCLA: [Q&A: What you need to know about monkeypox](#)

The New York Times: [Why the Monkeypox Virus Is Not Like Covid-19](#)

About Americans for Medical Progress

[Americans for Medical Progress](#) (AMP) is a nonprofit, health research advocacy group that supports the advancement of human and animal medicine through responsible and highly regulated research in animals. AMP informs the public about animal-based research through outreach events like [Biomedical Research Awareness Day](#), news and opinion articles, social media interactions and various online and printed publications. AMP is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charity supported by the nation's top universities, private research facilities, research-related businesses, scientific and professional societies, as well as by foundation grants and contributions by individuals. AMP's Board of Directors is composed of physicians, researchers, veterinarians and university officials.

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