

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pacific Pride Foundation

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MEDIA ALERT

Pacific Pride Foundation (PPF) Takes Lead in Community To Educate on Risk Factors of Monkeypox for All

WHAT: The World Health Organization has declared Monkeypox a World Health Emergency. The community of Santa Barbara County should know that:

Monkeypox is a rare disease and, while many people affected in the current global outbreaks identify as gay or bisexual, monkeypox can spread to **anyone** through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact including:

- Direct contact with monkeypox rash, sores, or scabs from a person with monkeypox.
- Contact with objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox.
- Contact with respiratory secretions, through kissing and other face-to-face contact.

This contact can happen in certain social and sexual situations including:

- Hugging, massage, and kissing.
- Oral, anal, and vaginal sex or touching the genitals (penis, testicles, labia, and vagina) or anus (butt) of a person with monkeypox.
- Touching fabrics and objects that were used by a person with monkeypox and that have not been disinfected, such as eating utensils, cups, bedding, towels, clothing, fetish gear, and sex toys.

Monkeypox is not spread through casual conversation or someone simply walking by, for instance.

While there are currently no known cases of monkeypox in Santa Barbara County, individuals can help limit the spread of the disease by:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Avoiding close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox.
- Not sharing eating utensils or cups with a person with monkeypox.
- Not handling or touching the bedding, towels, or clothing of a person with monkeypox.
- Staying home and contacting your healthcare provider if you:
 - feel sick
 - have a fever, chills, or swollen lymph nodes,
 - have a new or unexplained rash, which may look like pimples, blisters, or sores

Additional information and resources, including why it is important to speak about monkeypox in a way that is free from stigma can be found at www.pacificpridefoundation.org/monkeypox

WHO: Media interested in communicating information about Monkeypox should participate.

WHEN: Executive Director, Kristin Flickinger, will be available for interviews at the following times:

Date	Friday, July 29	Time	2PM-6PM
	Monday, Aug 1		9AM-11AM

CONTACT: To schedule an on-camera or phone interview, please contact Kristin Flickinger via phone 503-910-8474 or email kristin@pacificpridefoundation.org.

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Pacific Pride Foundation (PPF) is the leading LGBTQ+ center between Los Angeles and San Francisco, serving more than 10,000 people each year throughout all of Santa Barbara County. Headquartered in Santa Barbara, it partners with 35 educational and nonprofit agencies to provide a dynamic range of health prevention and social service programs, including programs for LGBTQ+ youth and older adults, counseling services, opioid response services, sensitivity and competency trainings, community events and advocacy on LGBTQ+ issues.

PPF directly prevents the transmission of disease through its HIV/AIDS and HEP-C testing and prevention outreach and education, delivering 1300 free and anonymous tests annually. PPF is the leader in in-school and after-school programs for LGBTQ+ youth, serving 200 kids with mental health, suicide prevention, and anti-bullying programs, while providing them with a safe place for social connection and leadership development. PPF is addressing the opioid crisis through the only syringe exchange program in the county, which collects nearly a quarter of a million used syringes every year, and by distributing the overdose reversing drug Narcan, which resulted in 249 known reversals of potentially fatal overdoses in the past year.

For more information or to make a donation please visit pacificpridefoundation.org.