

Monkeypox

from Page 1

spreads through skin-on-skin contact of any kind with a rash. It can also spread through contaminated surfaces. The virus can start with flu-like symptoms, painful muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes and a pox-like rash, though during the current outbreak, it has often presented with just a rash, according to CDC officials. There have been no deaths in the U.S. linked to this outbreak.

So far, most of the more than 1,700 cases in Florida are in men who have sex with men. Already, about 100 of them are young people between 15 and 24.

There's nothing inherent in the disease that makes this gay male population more at risk, and experts fear the disease could spread more widely in the coming months — especially on college campuses where students tend to have multiple sexual partners, or may have skin contact with strangers at parties or other activities.

“College campuses are inherently a risky environment in terms of transmission,” said Dr. Joshua Lenchus, medical director of Broward Health. “I would tell college students to assess your risk tolerance for certain behavior, look at the person who you are with. If that person has these lesions, it may not be the best idea to be with that person.”

Epidemiologists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told college administrators Wednesday during a briefing that while monkeypox is “not COVID” because it is not airborne, colleges should still take some precautions.

They should train their health center staff to identify a rash as monkeypox should a student show signs, test for the virus, provide treatment if necessary, and figure out how to isolate to keep monkeypox from spreading.

“The risk level in institutions of higher education is extremely low,” said Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, White House Monkeypox Response deputy coordinator. “With that said, we recommend



Incoming students cheer inside the University of Central Florida arena as UCF welcomed them to campus before the beginning of the new school year on Aug. 21 in Orlando. PHELAN M. EBENHACK/ORLANDO SENTINEL

that colleges and college students are mindful of signs and symptoms of monkeypox and are very aware of the populations that are over-represented in this current outbreak, because those populations are part of your campuses.”

American Public Health Association Executive Director Georges C. Benjamin said it's inevitable monkeypox will surface on college campuses this fall.

“There's nothing to say they'll have big outbreaks, but all schools should assume that they're going to have somebody on their campus that has monkeypox. The outbreak is just too widespread for that not to be the case,” he told the Florida Phoenix.

Joseph A. Puccio, executive and medical director of Student Health Services at Tampa's University of South Florida — known for its well-regarded public health school — is also anticipating monkeypox on campus this semester.

“At some point, we're going to get a student who gets infected with monkeypox. Is it going to be an overwhelming number of students? I do not think so,” Puccio said.

Prevention focus

With the new school year underway, Florida colleges

are focused on informing students and families about how the virus spreads, what groups are at risk, and what to look out for.

“Our message right now is: we know what the risk factors are. We know how it's transmitted. And we're trying to teach prevention,” said Dr. Jonathan Appelbaum, a practicing physician and chair of the Department of Clinical Sciences at Florida State University.

The University of Central Florida — the largest university in the state — is located in Orange County, which has over 120 cases of monkeypox. The university made a page that shares information about what monkeypox looks like as well as how it spreads and refers students to the Florida Department of Health Orange County for vaccines.

Spokesperson Heather Lovett said people who think they have monkeypox should contact their primary health care provider, which in many cases would be student health services.

University of Florida's awareness campaign also started with a brief on its website providing information on the disease, symptoms and behaviors that would put a student at risk. Cynthia Roldan Hernandez, a spokeswoman for the University of Florida, said the health center also is increas-

ing the promotion of health hygiene and safe sex messaging.

Appelbaum said that Florida State University's campaign includes offering printable fliers, adding information to its website about monkeypox, and hosting a campuswide information session about monkeypox this week.

University of South Florida also has printable fliers and information about who is at risk on its website. Puccio said the university plans to do more outreach and plans to create forms for students to ask questions about monkeypox anonymously.

Florida International University in Miami-Dade — the county with the most monkeypox cases in the state, at over 630 — shared information about monkeypox symptoms and transmission in an email to students and faculty. The information came directly from the CDC website and directed students with concerns to Student Health Services.

Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton used its FAU Owls Care website and its social media channels to put out information on monkeypox to its students. The university also has links to testing and vaccine locations on its public health page.

Scrambling to respond

Education is just one aspect of planning for monkeypox, however. If county-level spread in Florida is an indicator, infections on campuses will need to be managed swiftly and competently to keep cases from multiplying.

While state universities are all creating some form of communication, few have shared plans for what will happen if a case actually pops up. When asked about their response plans, not one was able to commit to having isolation space available to students on campus.

University of Florida's Roldan Hernandez said her school does not have vaccines but can conduct testing at its hospitals and student health care center,

adding, “if a case is identified, the Florida Department of Health in Alachua County would be contacted.”

Representatives for several public universities say they have ordered monkeypox tests for their student health centers, such as the University of Florida, Florida State University, University of South Florida and Florida A&M University. Accessing the antiviral drug Tpoxx that federal officials are using to treat severe monkeypox cases and shorten the illness' duration for an individual will require requesting the drug from federal authorities and completing a labor-intensive process of paperwork. Few universities have done so.

Several universities are in the process of trying to procure the Jynneos monkeypox vaccine from their local health department, said Puccio of Tampa's University of South Florida. USF is one of the few universities, along with FAMU, that is administering the vaccine to students in its health center at this time.

Florida State University is “working with Leon County DOH regarding vaccination options,” spokesperson Amy Farnum-Patronis said.

University of Florida's Nicole Iovine also said while the vaccine and antiviral treatment are available only from the CDC via local health departments, “we are working to enable access through our Student Health Care Center in the coming weeks.”

The universities that offer the vaccines on campus are limited to their county health department's vaccination criteria. Many counties are currently in phase 3 of vaccine distribution, which means the vaccines are given to men who have sex with men, close contacts of people with monkeypox, and laboratory personnel and select health care personnel at high risk for monkeypox, as well as other high-risk groups.

“Right now vaccines are in short supply and they are earmarked for high-risk populations,” Lenchus of Broward Health Medical Center said. “We are not at the point where we can have

mass inoculations on college campuses.”

Ulyee Choe, director of the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County, said during an Aug. 16 news conference that his department has worked with local universities' student health centers to provide education and resources.

No isolation plans

Because monkeypox lesions can last two to four weeks, CDC guidelines say anyone infected should isolate until the rash has resolved, the scabs have fallen off, and a fresh layer of intact skin has formed.

Ideally, students should be in a room with a door that shuts and a private bathroom, said Dr. Martha Montgomery, a CDC epidemiologist, in a Wednesday news conference. If they need to leave that space, they should wear clothing covering their sores and a mask, she said.

But most Florida universities haven't communicated how they'll help students isolate or keep up with their classes during the time when they are contagious, and some have shrugged it off as not being their responsibility.

Puccio says the University of South Florida is still developing its strategy.

FSU is asking students diagnosed with monkeypox to isolate at home.

Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers and University of North Florida in Jacksonville say on their websites they will not provide isolation spaces.

Florida Gulf Coast University notes in “extenuating circumstances” a student may isolate in their room, but the burden is on the student to arrange that.

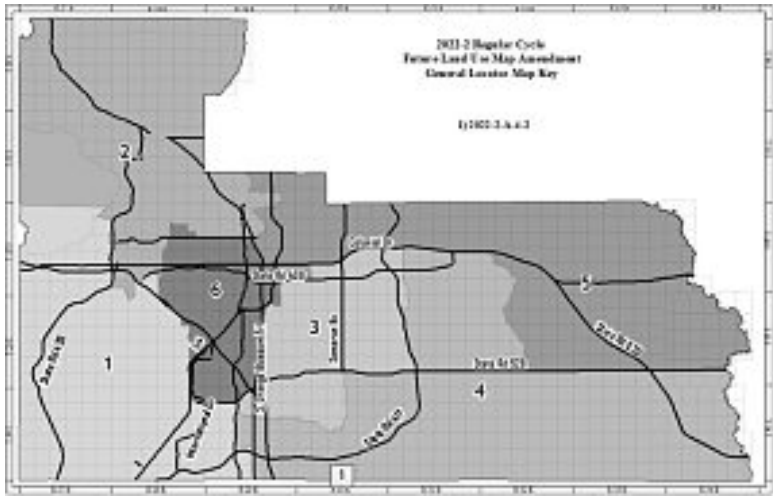
FGCU's website advises students to create an off-campus isolation plan with their parents before the semester begins.

South Florida Sun Sentinel staff writer Cindy Goodman can be reached at cgoodman@sunsentinel.com. Orlando Sentinel staff writer Caroline Catherman can be reached at ccatherman@orlandosentinel.com

NOTICE OF CHANGE TO THE ORANGE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – PUBLIC HEARINGS

On Thursday, September 15, 2022, beginning at 9:00 A.M., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the Orange County Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC)/Local Planning Agency (LPA) shall conduct public hearings in the Orange County Administration Center at 201 S. Rosalind Ave., 1st Floor, in downtown Orlando, FL, regarding the transmittal of the 2022-2 Regular Cycle Amendments to the Orange County Comprehensive Plan (“CP”), as it has been amended, as authorized by Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, for the following matters:

- A. Privately Initiated Future Land Use Element Map Amendment to Change the Designation of Lands within the Areas Identified on Map Set Forth Below



1. 2022-2-A-4-2: R to PD-MHDR/C and USA Expansion - Parcel ID#s: 34-24-30-6368-00-572 and 34-24-30-6368-00-680; 14857 and 14893 Boggy Creek Rd.; Generally located east of the Boggy Creek Road corridor, at the intersection of Boggy Creek Rd. and the Simpson Rd. right-of-way, north of the Orange County-Osceola County line. -11.57 gross ac.

- B. Staff-Initiated Comprehensive Plan Map and Text Amendments

2022-2-B-FLUE-5 - Text amendment to Future Land Use Element Policy FLU8.1.4 establishing the maximum densities and intensities for proposed Planned Developments within Orange County, associated with Amendment 2022-2-A-4-2

2022-2-B-FLUE-6 - Text amendment to Future Land Use Element Policy FLU1.2.4 regarding allocation of additional lands to the Urban Service Area (USA), associated with Amendment 2022-2-A-4-2

2022-2-B-FLUE-7 - Text and map amendments to the Future Land Use Element and Future Land Use Map (FLUM) Series and related goals, objectives and policies implementing the recommendations of the Boggy Creek Road and Kissimmee Farms Area Plan including: amending the Urban Service Area (USA) boundary to establish an expansion area as well as adopting guidelines and principles for future land use amendments and developments within the USA expansion area, and amendments creating the Orlando-Kissimmee Farms Rural Residential Enclave and adding Map 25(e), Orlando-Kissimmee Farms Rural Residential Enclave of the FLUM series.

ABBREVIATIONS INDEX: IND-Industrial; C-Commercial; O-Office; LDR-Low Density Residential; LMDR-Low-Medium Density Residential; MDR-Medium Density Residential; MHDR-Medium-High Density Residential; HDR-High Density Residential; PD-Planned Development; INST-Institutional; CONS-Wetland/Conservation; PR/OS-Parks/Recreation/Open Space; OS-Open Space; R-Rural/Agricultural; RS-Rural Settlement; RS 1/5-Rural Settlement 1/5; RS 1/2-Rural Settlement 1/2; RS 1/1-Rural Settlement 1/1; GC-Growth Center; USA-Urban Service Area; WB-Water Body; ACMU-Activity Center Mixed Use; ACR-Activity Center Residential; EDU-Educational; CP-Comprehensive Plan; FLUM-Future Land Use Map; FLUE-Future Land Use Element; GOPS-Goals, Objectives, and Policies; OBJ-Objective; TRAN-Transportation; LUP-Land Use Plan; SR-State Road; AC-Acres

Any interested party may appear at any of the public hearings and be heard regarding the consideration of any of the above described Comprehensive Plan Amendments, and submit written comments to the address below prior to the public hearing.

Any of the public hearings may be continued on the date of the public hearing to a future date or dates. Any interested party is hereby advised that the date, time, and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notices regarding these matters will be published.

To obtain more detailed information, or to inspect the proposed amendment package, or any part thereof, any interested party may appear between 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, at the Orange County Planning Division, 201 S. Rosalind Ave., 2nd Floor, Orlando, FL, 32801, or telephone during those same hours at 407-836-5600, or send an email to planning@ocfl.net.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if any person with a disability as defined by the ADA needs special accommodation to participate in this proceeding, then not later than two (2) business days prior to the proceeding, that person should contact the Orange County Communications Division, 3rd Floor, Orange County Administration Center, 201 S. Rosalind Ave., Orlando, FL, or telephone that department at (407) 836-6568.

PARA MAS INFORMACION, REFERENTE A ESTAS AUDIENCIAS PUBLICA, FAVOR COMUNICARSE CON LA DIVISION DE PLANIFICACION URBANA AL NUMERO, 407-836-3111. POU PLIS ENFOMASYON AN KREYÒL, SOUPLE RELE (407) 836-3111.

NOTICE OF CHANGE TO THE ORANGE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – PUBLIC HEARING

On Tuesday, September 13, 2022, beginning at 2:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) shall conduct a public hearing in the Orange County Administration Center at 201 S. Rosalind Ave., 1st Floor, in downtown Orlando, FL, regarding transmittal of the proposed 2022-2 Regular Cycle Amendment to the Orange County Comprehensive Plan (“CP”), as it has been amended, as authorized by Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, for the following matter:

Privately-Initiated Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment

2022-2-P-FLUE-1 - Text amendment to Future Land Use Element Policy FLU8.1.4 amending the maximum density/intensity of the Hannah Smith Property PD through the modification of the development program of the portion of the PD designated as Tract 4 on the PD Land Use Plan.

ABBREVIATIONS INDEX: ACMU-Activity Center Mixed Use; ACR-Activity Center Residential; IDD-RC-International Drive District-Regional Center; IND-Industrial; CP-Comprehensive Plan; PD-Planned Development; FLUE-Future Land Use Element; GOPS-Goals, Objectives, and Policies; OBJ-Objective

Any interested party may appear at the public hearing and be heard regarding the consideration of the above described Comprehensive Plan Amendment, and submit written comments to the address below prior to the public hearing.

The public hearing may be continued on the date of the public hearing to a future date or dates. Any interested party is hereby advised that the date, time, and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notices regarding these matters will be published.

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