

MPOX vaccines needed in Mexico

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In the article, “Epidemiological and clinical characteristics of patients with human monkeypox infection in Mexico: a nationwide observational study,” authors correctly observe that “Containment measures should include spreading trustworthy information about known spread mechanisms and, whenever available, target vaccination to groups at higher risk of infection with monkeypox.”¹ This affirmation is in line with recommendations by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control, and the European Medicines Agency.^{2–4} Several authors of this study are the top Ministry of Health (MOH) policy and decision-makers of the national monkeypox (MPOX) response in Mexico, and have the power to decide how the Mexican government addresses MPOX within its borders—including the power to influence authorization of the vaccine and make it available to groups at higher risk of infection.

On July 23, 2022, the WHO declared the current MPOX outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.⁵ Despite over 3508 officially reported cases to date,⁶ which has placed Mexico among the top-ten countries with the most cumulative cases and number one globally with the most daily cases,⁷ the MPOX vaccine has not been authorized for use in Mexico—this has not changed since the above-mentioned article was published in November 9, 2022. We believe it is important for these authors, who are at the same time top public health officials, to act within their country in accordance with what they say to an international audience through *the Lancet Regional Health – Americas*.

The purpose of this letter is not to question the methodology and findings of this article, but to encourage authors to use their power to authorize the use of the MPOX vaccine in Mexico.

Contributors

Three of the authors of this letter, JS, RB, and AP, all Mexican nationals, have been actively and loudly advocating, since July 2022, for increased access to MPOX testing and for the authorization of the MPOX vaccine in Mexico. GF and JS work together as part of a team that addresses issues in Global Health at the University of Miami and have worked together to draft this response. This work is the product of the work of

all authors who have strategized this response together. The response was written by GF and JS, and was revised, reviewed, and approved by RB and AP.

Declaration of interests

GF, RB, and AP declare no competing interests. JS declares that the original funding to the University of Miami for the projects related with this article come from AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF). JS is the Executive Director of the AHF Global Public Health Institute at the University of Miami.

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