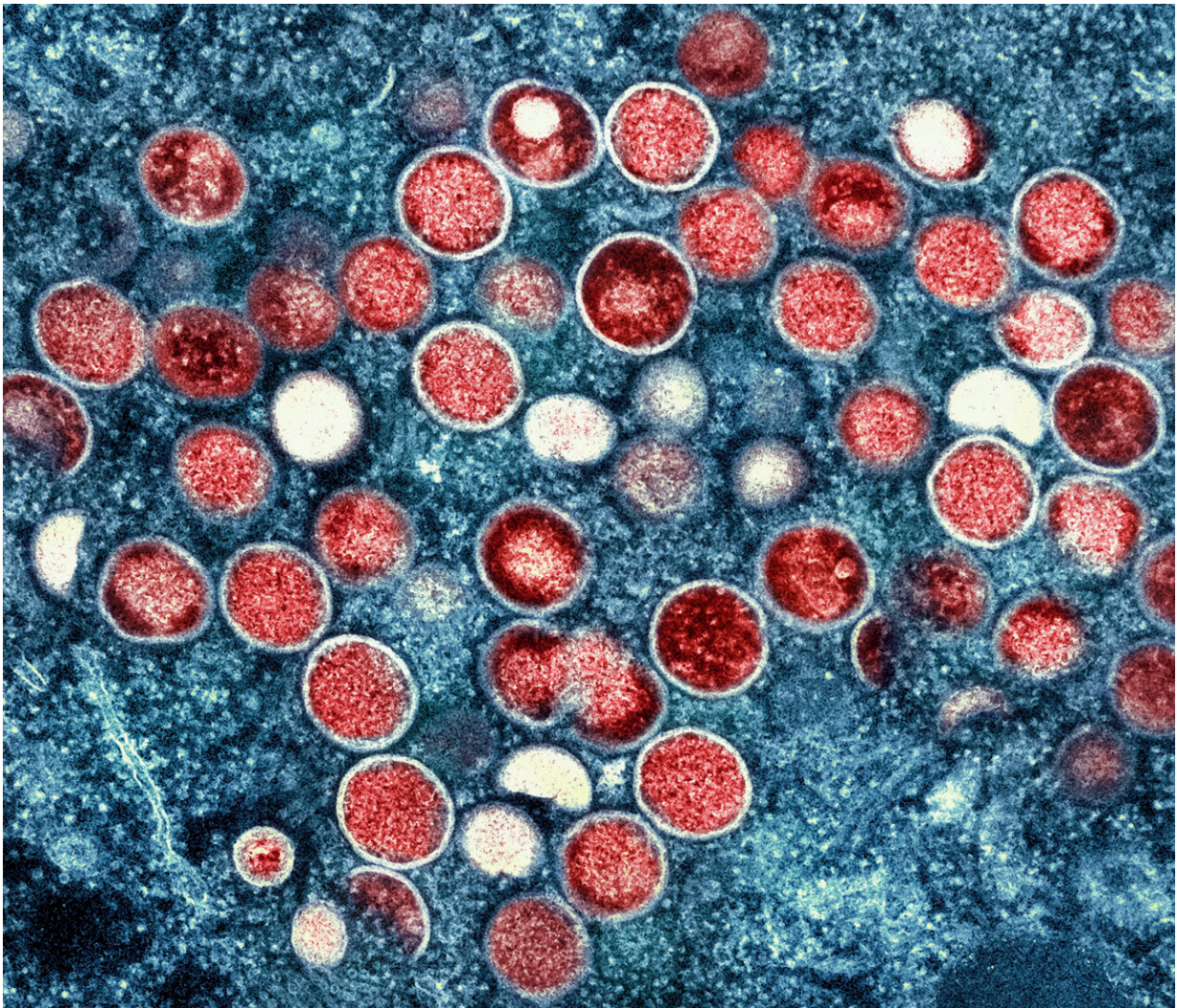


US plans end to mpox public health emergency in January

December 3 2022, by Amanda Seitz



This image provided by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) shows a colorized transmission electron micrograph of mpox particles (red) found within an infected cell (blue), cultured in the laboratory that was

captured and color-enhanced at the NIAID Integrated Research Facility (IRF) in Fort Detrick, Md. The federal government plans to end in January 2023 the public health emergency it declared earlier this year after an outbreak of mpox left more than 29,000 people across the U.S. infected. Credit: NIAID via AP, File

The federal government plans to end in January [the public health emergency it declared earlier this year](#) after an outbreak of mpox infected more than 29,000 people across the U.S.

Mpox cases have plummeted in recent weeks, with just a handful of new infections being reported every week in the month of November, [according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). At the height of the outbreak, over the summer, hundreds of people were being infected weekly.

The virus has primarily spread among men who have sex with infected men.

The public health emergency is expected to end in January, said Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra in a statement.

"Given the low number of cases today, HHS does not expect that it needs to renew the emergency declaration when it ends on January 31, 2023," Becerra said. "But we won't take our foot off the gas—we will continue to monitor the case trends closely and encourage all at-risk individuals to get a free vaccine."

The U.S. struggled to contain the mpox outbreak for many months. Tests were difficult to come by and the government botched its rollout of the vaccine, with weeks of delays in getting 800,000 doses of the shots to

clinics in the major cities that were hit hardest.



Vials of single doses of the Jynneos vaccine for mpox are seen from a cooler at a vaccinations site on Aug. 29, 2022, in the Brooklyn borough of New York. The federal government plans to end in January 2023 the public health emergency it declared earlier this year after an outbreak of mpox left more than 29,000 people across the U.S. infected. Credit: AP Photo/Jeenah Moon, File



Bob Fenton, White House Monkeypox response coordinator, speaks during a press briefing at the White House, Sept. 7, 2022, in Washington. The federal government plans to end in January 2023 the public health emergency it declared earlier this year after an outbreak of mpox left more than 29,000 people across the U.S. infected. Credit: AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, File

The tide began turning in August, shortly after the government declared a public health emergency and the White House [tapped two top officials](#)—Robert Fenton, who led the Federal Emergency Management Agency's COVID-19 vaccination effort, and Dr. Demetre Daskalakis of the CDC—to lead the response to the virus outbreak.

Their strategy included reaching out to local clinics and vaccinating people at Pride events or parades. As the two-dose Jynneos vaccine

became more readily available around the country, cases started falling.

To date, [17 people have died from the virus in the U.S.](#)

Winding down the mpox public health emergency will be a test run of sorts for the Biden administration as it braces to declare an end of the COVID-19 public health emergency, which is expected to last at least through Jan. 11. The administration has given no indication of when it will declare an end to the coronavirus [public health emergency](#) but has promised to give at last 60 days notice.

Last month the World Health Organization renamed monkeypox as mpox, citing concerns the original name of the decades-old animal disease could be construed as discriminatory and racist.

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Citation: US plans end to mpox public health emergency in January (2022, December 3)
retrieved 8 May 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-12-mpox-health-emergency-january.html>

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