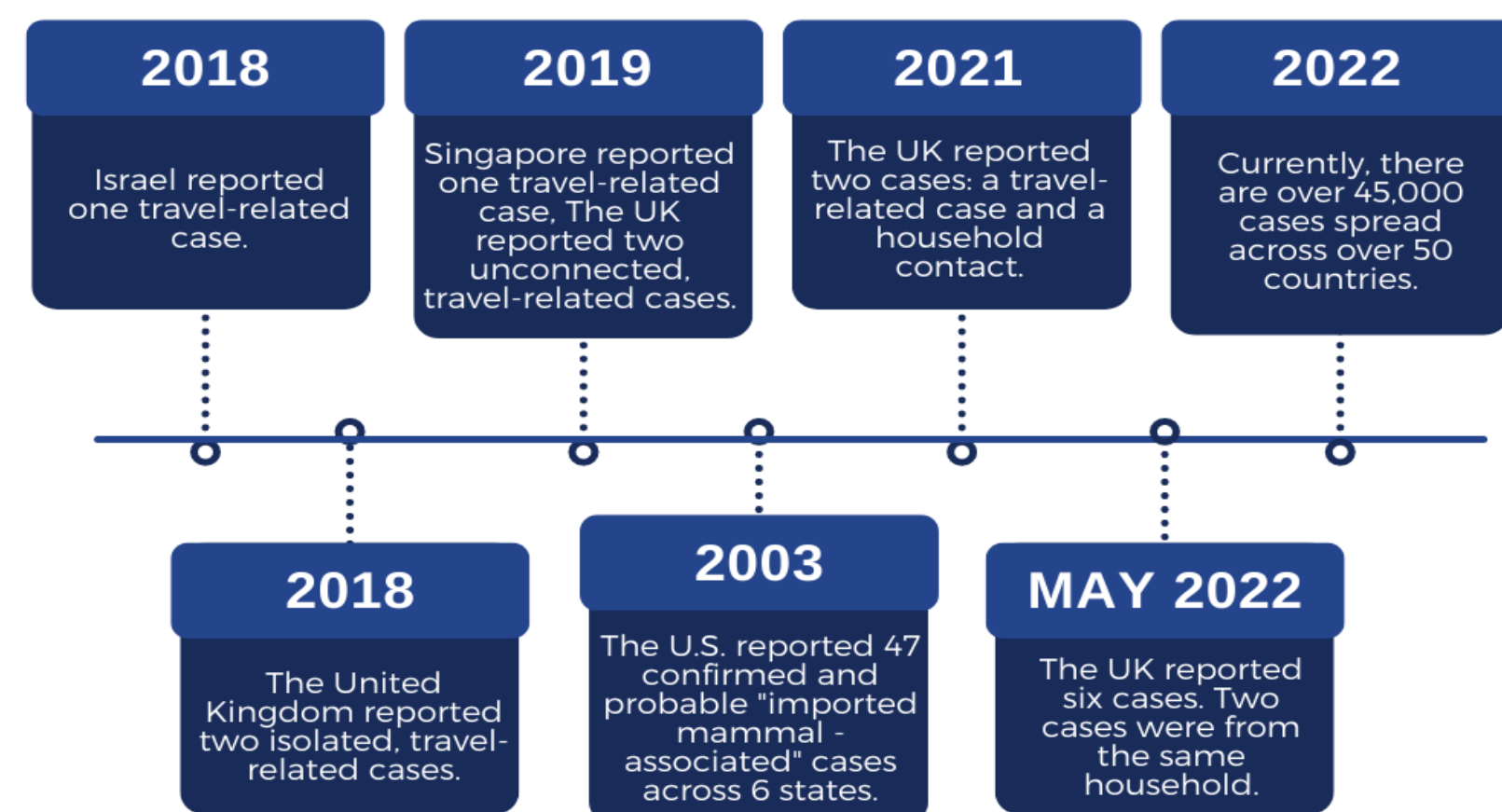


Introduction

- 8-week internship with the NYC Health + Hospitals (NYC H+H) Special System Pathogens Program during Summer 2022.
- NYC H+H is the largest municipal healthcare system in the country. It includes **70+ healthcare facilities** across New York City and serves approximately **1.1 million New York residents**.
- The Special System Pathogens Program strengthens **infectious disease preparedness** through **mystery patient drills** and **resources** for healthcare workers.
- The disease of interest for Summer 2022 was **Monkeypox (MPX)**.

Timeline of Monkeypox Cases Prior to 2022 Global Outbreak



What is Monkeypox?

- MPX is caused by the monkeypox virus and can be spread through direct contact with infectious rash scabs or body fluids, respiratory secretions, and contaminated materials.
- Symptoms can include fever, muscle aches, respiratory symptoms, and a characteristic, pimple-like rash that can appear on the hands, face, and other parts of the body.



Examples of fake Monkeypox lesions created for the Monkeypox secret shopper drills. Photographer Lily Cohen.

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NYC Health + Hospitals

Funded by CHW under the Global Health + Health Policy Summer 2022 Internships

Internship Project

The Interns' Role

- Conducting mystery patient drills
- Research global outbreaks and maintain infectious disease database
- Attend situational updates and town-halls
- Develop resources for infection prevention and control (e.g. PPE usage guides and clinician fact sheets for various infectious diseases)
- Discuss infectious disease emergency management structures

Monkeypox Drills

- Objectives Tested
 - **Screening:** *Were patients with positive symptom & travel screening identified?*
 - **Isolate & Infection Control:** *Were patients isolated rapidly? Did healthcare workers wear appropriate PPE?*
 - **Communication:** *Were necessary hospital staff & public health agencies notified?*
- After-Action Reports & Improvement Plans
 - Identified strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement during drills and crafted an improvement plan for participating facilities

Data Analysis of MPX Drills

- Efficient registration, triage, and isolation of the patient actor during all drills.
 - Appropriate PPE worn by staff during most drills.
 - Immediate or planned notification to a supervisor occurred during most drills.
- Note: Outcomes of drills were highly dependent on observations before the drill ended and were followed by a facilitated discussion.

Looking Ahead

- Monkeypox 2022 Global Outbreak emphasizes the importance of **healthcare system readiness**
- Looking ahead, it is important to continue to:
 - **Evaluate** infection prevention procedures
 - **Create/Update** guidelines for healthcare workers for screening, isolation, and notification protocols
 - **Monitor** current global outbreaks
 - **Acknowledge** the increased pandemic potential in an interconnected world

Conclusions

- "Mystery patient drills" are important for assessing readiness in identification, isolation, and notification processes
- Drills can help identify opportunities for improvement in protocols and prepare facilities for real-world scenarios
- Resources for infectious diseases must be maintained/updated to prepare health-workers for potential cases in the future

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