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).

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?

Internship Project
- The Interns’ Role
  - Consecuting 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

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

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.

Looking Ahead
- "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.

Acknowledgements
We would like to thank our supervisors, Priya Dhagat and Dr. Syra Madad (Associate and Senior Director of the System-Wide Special Pathogens Program) for their guidance and mentorship this summer. We would also like to thank the Center of Health and Wellbeing for their sponsorship and support.