



# STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Coming Tower

The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza

Albany, New York 12237

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H.  
Commissioner

Dennis P. Whalen  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

## DESIGNATION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

WHEREAS, Monkeypox is an orthopox virus associated with fever, headache, backache, swollen lymph nodes, and a blister-like rash, is transmitted from animal to person and from person to person, and if established and spread in the population would have severe public health consequences; and

WHEREAS, published studies cite a 1-10% fatality rate for monkeypox, that it is transmissible from person to person, and that it may be prevented by timely vaccination with the smallpox vaccine; and

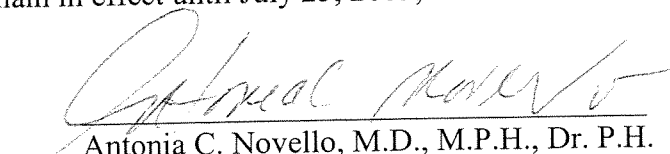
WHEREAS, Monkeypox is believed to have been introduced in the United States through a shipment of infected African rodents on April 9, 2003 and emerged as a public health threat in the United States in May, 2003; and

WHEREAS as of July 10, 2003, seventy-one (71) suspected and /or confirmed human cases of monkeypox (including 35 laboratory confirmed cases) were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 6 states; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2003, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, issued a joint order placing an embargo and prohibition on transportation or offering for transportation in interstate commerce, or sale, offering for sale, or offering for any other type of commercial or public distribution, including release into the environment, of certain rodents and prairie dogs; and

WHEREAS, as of July 10, 2003 fourteen (14) prairie dogs that were exposed to the original April 9, 2003 shipment of infected animals have been traced to pet stores/owners in New York State;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by 10 NYCRR Section 2.1(a), I have determined that monkeypox, as it may be defined from time to time by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is communicable and a significant threat to the public health, and hereby designate monkeypox as a communicable disease under 10 NYCRR Section 2.1. This designation shall remain in effect until July 25, 2003, the next scheduled meeting of the Public Health Council.

  
Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H.  
Commissioner of Health

Date: July 11/03