

HEALTH / NEWS

Health Department Confirms 3 Positive Monkeypox Cases in the Chattanooga Area

By Camm Ashford

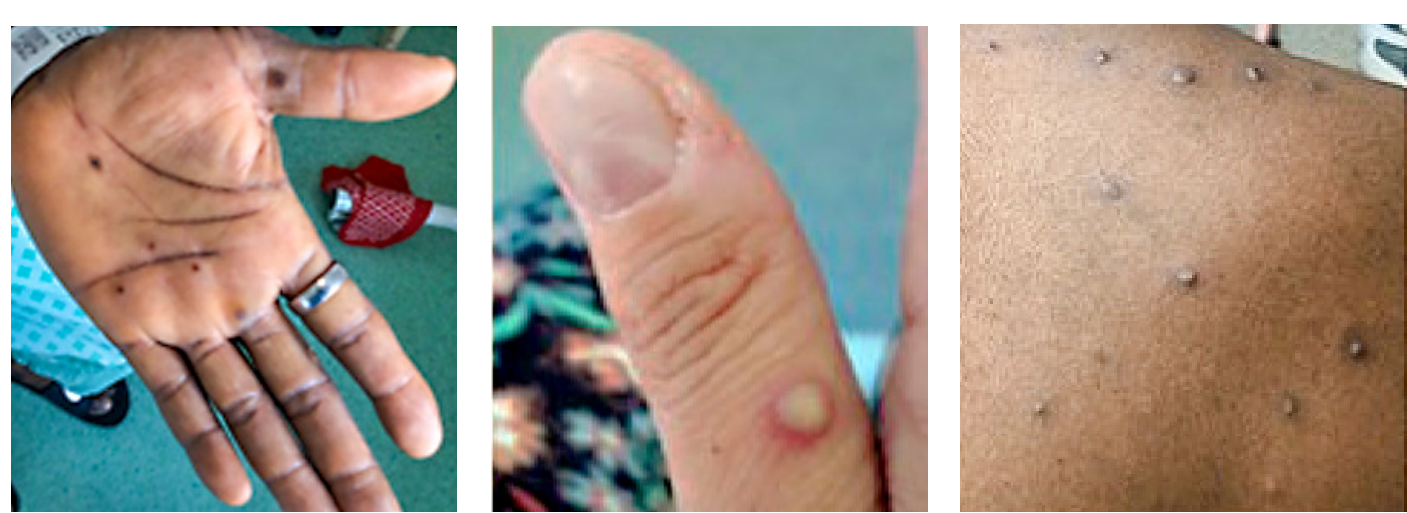
The Hamilton County Health Department on Tuesday morning confirmed three positive monkeypox cases in the Chattanooga area.

“We have been anticipating and preparing for Monkeypox to reach our community,” Dr. Stephen Miller, Hamilton County Health Department health officer, said in a statement.

“Overall, the risk to our population is low, but be mindful that Monkeypox is a disease that can affect any individual. The Health Department is currently conducting case investigations to alert close contacts who might have been exposed to the virus while the patients were infectious.” Monkeypox was first identified in humans in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in a 9-month-old boy. Since then, most cases have been reported from rural, rainforest regions of the Congo Basin, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and human cases have increasingly been reported from across central and west Africa.

Monkeypox was first detected in the United States in a Massachusetts man in mid-May, and has since spread to nearly every state in the country. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, confirmed cases totaled 5,811 nationwide as of Tuesday morning, but numbers climb drastically every day.

The World Health Organization is so concerned it classified monkeypox a global public health emergency over the weekend. And the Biden administration is seriously considering declaring it a public health



Monkeypox often comes with a rash that can look like pimples or blisters, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

emergency within the United States.

As the number of cases rapidly increase, public and local health officials are scrambling to curb the spread and raise public awareness.

Hamilton County Health Department Communications Manager Holden Young pointed out that monkeypox isn't something most Chattanooga residents should be worried about.

“The risk to the general public is low,” Young said in an email. “Monkeypox can spread through direct physical contact from a person with monkeypox or by touching objects, fabrics, and surfaces used by someone with monkeypox. It can also spread through contact with respiratory secretions. If you have a new rash or are concerned

about monkeypox, contact your healthcare provider.”

Monkeypox is in the same family of viruses as small pox, although its side effects aren't as severe. No Americans have died so far from the virus that can include chills, exhaustion, fever, headache, muscle aches and swollen lymph nodes. Monkeypox often also comes with a rash that can look like pimples or blisters, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The current outbreak of monkeypox in the United States, Europe and other countries that don't traditionally experience the virus, is predominantly occurring in gay or bisexual people, or men who have sex with men, according to public health officials.

New York, Florida and Georgia top the

list of the states with the most cases.

The Tennessee Department of Health distributed 2,101 doses of monkeypox vaccine late last month. Young recommends that people interested in getting a vaccine call the Hamilton County Health Department hotline at 423-209-8383, if they think they have been exposed to someone who has monkeypox and are seeking vaccination.

“There are monkeypox vaccines available in Hamilton County,” Young said. “Due to a limited supply and based on CDC recommendations, the Health Department is only providing vaccines to people who have been in close contact with people who have monkeypox. There is no fee for the monkeypox vaccine.”

What's Causing Generational Destruction & Death

By Robin Smith

Are you aware that the lifespan of American adults is significantly impacted by something which has fallen out of our discussions, yet has grown more potent in recent months?

No. It's not currently COVID, despite rising case counts as our social patterns of activity have increased over the summer. No. It's not monkeypox, the latest declared emergency that, interestingly, the World Health Organization has issued direct warnings to those living the homosexual lifestyle.

CNBC published remarks by WHO's monkeypox expert and WHO Smallpox Secretariat, Dr. Rosamund Lewis, noted that “men who have sex with men are the group for the highest risk of infection right now. About 99% of cases are among men, and at least 95% of those patients are men who have had sex with men.”

It's increasing overdose deaths from fentanyl and a new class of synthetic opioids that are literally wiping out generations of Americans. This is due to addictions and ease of access obtaining illegal drugs flowing over open borders, as reported by CNN in February 2022. To fund international drug cartels that are lavishly wealthy from preying on Americans, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that from February 2021 to February 2022, more than 108,000 Americans died of drug overdoses.



Almost three-fourths, or more than 70 for every 100 overdose deaths, were opioid-related.

What is fentanyl? It's a powerful medication used appropriately for severely injured patients, or those dealing with terminal diseases, or who are under strict supervision of physicians. Why is it so deadly? Its potency is underestimated, but its impact on the respiratory system is greater than morphine and heroin.

Stated plainly, fentanyl reduces both your rate of breathing and the volume of air moved. Its victims usually die. Fentanyl also lowers the heart rate and blood pressure. Obviously, if one's heart is not beating sufficiently to move blood through your body and not giving breath, the outcome is clear – death.

Even in states where other drugs are legal, like Colorado, where marijuana was legalized back in 2012, an analysis of 2021 deaths in the “Rocky Mountain High” state revealed 48,284 deaths, 10,363 more than the pre-pandemic average. Only 5,298 of those were caused by the COVID virus. Coloradans are seeing a massive increase in overdose deaths in ages 25-44 years young.

As International Overdose Day, August 31, approaches, talk to your family members and friends. Addictions are deadly and must be addressed through medical



and behavioral interventions. Resources are available with professionals ready to assist when accessed.

Be aware. Fentanyl is 50 times more potent than heroine, and 100 times more potent than morphine. A new synthetic class being smuggled into our streets is the nitazenes. These illicit drugs are 20 times more powerful than fentanyl.

A Stanford-Lancet study this year predicts 1.2 million US deaths, with the greatest impact to the Black community, over the next decade due to opioids.

If you get medicine from your physicians, take it as prescribed and in consultation with your health team. Otherwise, beware of dangers.

Gooden: from front

Mr. Gooden was the eighth child born to the late Reverend George and Ruby Gooden on Sept. 2, 1934. He began his formal education in Rossville, Ga. and later graduated from Howard High School in Chattanooga. After graduation, he joined the United States Army where he was a truck driver.

In 1957, after serving his country, Mr. Gooden began his singing career and took his vision to Chicago, where he met Jerry Butler and Curtis Mayfield. Realizing they needed someone to take them further in their career, they allowed a gentleman by the name of Eddie Thomas to take them under his

wings as their manager. Mr. Thomas persuaded the rising stars to change the name of their group from “The Roosters” to “The Impressions.”

The group released the song “For Your Precious Love,” and life for the young singers was never the same.

In 1963, Gloria Driver, a young lady he met in Chicago four years earlier, became Mr. Gooden's wife. They later relocated to Chattanooga.

In addition to his singing career, Mr. Gooden served as an auxiliary police officer for the city of Chattanooga. He was also a member of River of Life Church in Rossville, Ga.

Mr. Gooden often stated that the 64 years of his career blessed his life with joyful memories, and his faith brought

him through many challenges that presented opportunities for personal and spiritual growth.

“I am motivated to ‘Keep On Pushing’ until my heart tells me it is time to sit and rest,” Mr. Gooden said during a recent interview. “I love entertaining. Seeing the happy faces of those we sing to is a bonus. Singing is my way of spreading love, peace and hope to a newer generation, and telling our faithful followers thank you.”

Mr. Gooden is preceded by his parents the Rev. George and Ruby Satterwhite Gooden; brothers, Doc Gooden, George Gooden, LaVelle Gooden and Varnell Gooden; sisters, Mae Ruby Blake, Annie Ruth Ross and Mary M. Scott; and son-in-law, John Wade.

Mr. Gooden is survived by his loving wife, Gloria Driver Gooden; children, Samuel J. Gooden, Sandra D. (Marvin, Sr.) Hudgins, Gina (Darryl, Sr.) Griffin, and Gloria J. “Spanky” Gooden, all of Chattanooga; 11 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, in-laws and friends.

A private Memorial Service will take place at a later date. Military Honors and Rites will follow at a later date at the Chattanooga National Cemetery, as well.

Arrangements are being handled by Willis Funeral Home, 2011 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dalton, Ga.

Bush: from front

“I am excited to have Brian join my executive staff and we look forward to the experience and skills he brings to our agency's operations. The role of General Counsel is vital to the efficient and professional delivery of services we provide to the citizens of Hamilton County,” stated Sheriff-Elect Garrett.

In addition to the aforementioned

responsibilities, the General Counsel's duties also include addressing issues involving Corrections Services with attorney-client visitation, inmate medical inquiries, sentence calculation and general information that attorneys and court personnel need regarding specific inmates. Counsel also assists with Internal Affairs, Public Relations inquiries, and the overall support for Sheriff's Office operations.

General Counsel Bush is a proud Hamilton County native. He received his

law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Maryville College, in Maryville, Tenn.

Prior to joining the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office as General Counsel, Bush served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Hamilton County District Attorney General's Office prosecuting violent crimes and felonies. Most recently, his practice involved civil litigation as an attorney at the firm of Spears, Moore,

Rebman, & Williams, P.C.

Bush is also a commissioned intelligence officer, serving in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He serves his community on various boards, and he is dedicated to serving the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. Brian and his wife, Mauriel, enjoy calling Chattanooga home.

General Counsel Bush officially joined the HCSO on Aug. 7.

Moore: from front

tion with an emphasis in accounting from

Rhodes College. He also successfully completed the SunTrust Advanced Leadership Program and the Graduate Leadership Program at Emory University.

BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee is a taxpaying, not-for-profit health plan serving more than 3.3 million members in Tennessee and around the country. The

Chattanooga-based company was founded in 1945.

Nesmith: from front

ing.” Availing herself of every opportunity, she joined Global Scholars, served as Student Government Association presi-

dent, made the Dean's List, received the 2022 President's Award, and was named one of eight national Dream Scholars by the Achieving the Dream (ATD) network, all while maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA.

The House of Representatives resolution notes that Nesmith's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration and commendation of the members of the 112th General As-

sembly, concurred by the Senate.

“She represents Chattanooga State and the College System of Tennessee in such an admirable way,” stated Rep. Vital.