

May 19, 2023

Dear Health Care Provider:

Re: Mpox (Monkeypox) Update #6

Sporadic cases of mpox continue to be detected in Canada and globally. As of April 28, 2023, provinces and territories have publicly reported 1,484 case, with only one confirmed case in Manitoba.

Anyone can become infected with mpox; however, in Canada and around the world, infections have been primarily reported among people who self-identify as belonging to the gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) community.

Health care providers are advised to be vigilant and consider mpox when patients present with an unusual, unexplained rash and other clinical signs consistent with mpox (e.g. fever, headache, and/or lymphadenopathy), particularly in individuals who may have been exposed to someone with mpox. Health care providers are encouraged to consult infectious disease specialists when assessing a suspected mpox case. The communicable disease management protocol for mpox can be found at: manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/monkeypox.pdf

In advance of increased travel in the summer, health care providers are also advised to discuss the risks and benefits of the mpox vaccine with their patients who may be eligible to get their 1st dose or have yet to get their second dose. Please see the eligibility criteria below.

Eligibility for pre-exposure prophylaxis

The following individuals are eligible for the mpox vaccine:

- cisgender, transgender or two-spirit people who self-identify as belonging to the gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) community and who meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - have received a diagnosis of a sexually transmitted infection in the past year;
 - have had two or more sexual partners in the past 90 days;
 - have attended locations for sexual contact (e.g. bath houses or sex clubs) or are planning to;
 - have had anonymous sex in the past 90 days (i.e. using apps, online sites, formal/informal gatherings) or are planning to;
 - engaged in sex work or plan to, as a worker or client; or
- any sexual contacts of the individuals described above.
- individuals who self-identify as sex workers, regardless of self-identified sex/gender

- staff or volunteers in sex-on-premises venues where workers may have contact with objects or materials that may be contaminated with the mpox virus without the use of personal protective equipment

It is recommended, individuals be provided with two doses of vaccine for pre-exposure prophylaxis administered 28 days apart. If it has been more than 28 days since a first dose has been given, the second dose can still be provided. Two doses of vaccine represent a complete primary series of Imvamune® vaccine.

Eligibility for post-exposure prophylaxis

Individuals are eligible if they are a close contact of a confirmed or probable mpox case. If a patient has received a single dose of Imvamune® for pre-exposure prophylaxis, they may be eligible for a second dose as post-exposure prophylaxis.

The vaccine is available in communities across the province and eligible individuals can book appointments at their local public health offices: [manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html](https://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html)

Further resources can be found at Manitoba Health:
[manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/mpox.html](https://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/mpox.html)

Please share this update with colleagues at your facility/clinic.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Richard Baydack, PhD
**Director,
Communicable Disease Control**

Original signed by

Davinder Singh, MD, MSc, FRCPC
**Medical Lead, Vaccines,
Communicable Disease Control**