

MONKEYPOX

Information for GPs – Please distribute to all staff

- Since May 2022, outbreaks of monkeypox cases have been reported among men who have sex with men (MSM) in multiple countries.
- Monkeypox is [notifiable to NSW Health](#). Please look out for signs and symptoms consistent with monkeypox in patients at risk.
- Contact the Sexual Health Infolink (SHIL) for advice on 1800 451 624.
- For up-to-date information, see the [NSW Health website](#).

- As of 5 August 2022, 27,562 confirmed cases of monkeypox have been reported globally in the current outbreak, predominantly among men who have sex with men (MSM).
- 34 cases have been notified in NSW. 32 cases were diagnosed in NSW, while 2 cases were diagnosed overseas and returned to NSW while infectious. All acquired their infection overseas except for 2 cases. A total of 57 cases of monkeypox have been reported in Australia.

What are the symptoms of monkeypox?

- Monkeypox is usually a self-limiting but unpleasant illness characterised by a rash. It may sometimes be severe and painful. A prodromal illness of fever, malaise, headache, myalgia, and lymphadenopathy may occur but many cases in this outbreak have presented with pimples or pustules first appearing in the genital area or buttocks.

How is monkeypox transmitted in this international outbreak?

- Skin to skin contact with a person infected with monkeypox (including sexual contact) has been the most important mode of transmission in this outbreak. Transmission by respiratory droplets in the prodromal phase and contact with clothing, linen or other contaminated items is also possible.

How to manage a suspect monkeypox case

- Please look out for signs and symptoms consistent with monkeypox, especially in sexually active MSM.
- Patients should remain isolated, and a telemedicine consultation arranged where possible. Those who present to the surgery should be isolated and wear a surgical mask. GPs examining patients should wear appropriate PPE; please see the CEC IPC guidelines: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/monkeypox-clinicians-info>
- Contact the Sexual Health Infolink (SHIL) on 1800 451 624 (weekdays 9am to 5:30pm and Saturday 9am to 12pm) or visit their website <https://www.shil.nsw.gov.au> for advice on clinical management. Outside of these hours call the Infectious Diseases/Microbiology Consultant on call at Westmead Hospital on 8890 5555.
- If monkeypox is suspected, collect samples per the [PHLN guidelines](#) and send these to the NSW Health Pathology-ICPMR laboratory at Westmead Hospital for monkeypox virus testing.
- Clinicians testing through private laboratories should ensure samples are expedited to ICPMR.
- Notify any suspected case to the public health unit for investigation, contact tracing and control measures.

Vaccination

- NSW Health has secured a limited supply of the JYNNEOS vaccine and will commence vaccination for high-risk groups from 8 August 2022.
- Vaccination will be initially targeted to those at greatest risk of severe illness and acquisition of the virus.

Further information

- Please contact your local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055 to notify suspected cases.
- Australian Government monkeypox resources: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/monkeypox-mpx-resources>



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