

# MPOX UPDATE

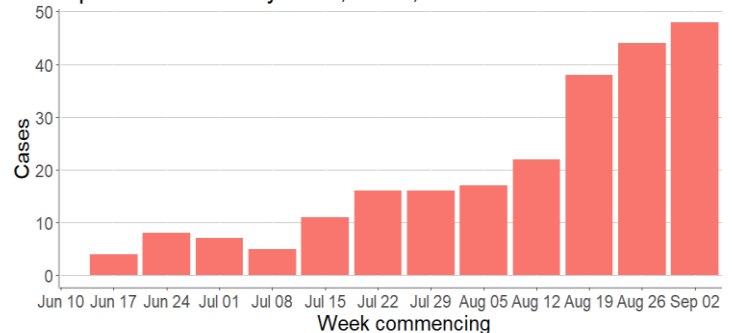
Information for GPs and clinicians in NSW – please distribute to all staff

1. **Mpox cases are continuing to increase** in Sydney and regional NSW
2. Have a **low threshold for testing** sexually active people with any symptoms
3. **Promote vaccination** in all men who have sex with men (MSM) and sex workers, and their sexual partners

## Mpox is increasing across NSW

- **236** notifications of mpox in NSW since mid-June
- All cases are male, almost all are MSM
- All cases in NSW are consistent with clade IIb
- Transmission in both Sydney and regional NSW
- 13 people hospitalised
- Risk of mpox spreading to other population groups in NSW and of importation of the potentially more serious clade Ib strain from Africa

Mpox notifications by week, NSW, 2024



## Mpox can mimic other conditions (e.g. herpes, syphilis, tonsillitis, haemorrhoids)

- **Presentations vary and include:** 1-2 lesions, disseminated lesions, proctitis without visible lesions
- When present, lesions are usually on the anogenital area or mouth, but can occur anywhere
- Only some cases have a prodrome (fever, malaise, myalgia, and/or lymphadenopathy). Ask people with only the prodrome to return for testing if they develop further mpox symptoms

## Test all sexually active people with symptoms

- Test if symptomatic, regardless of vaccination status, sexual orientation or travel history
- Most at risk are: MSM (or undisclosed MSM exposures), sex workers and partners of these groups
- **If testing for herpes simplex virus (HSV), test for mpox.** It is preferable to collect a separate swab for mpox testing and store in a dry transport tube.
- Wear PPE, including gown, gloves, surgical mask, and eye protection
- For further testing advice: <https://sti.guidelines.org.au/sexually-transmissible-infections/monkeypox/>
- Advise patients to cover all lesions and abstain from sex while awaiting the result
- If positive, the public health unit (PHU) will contact the person with further advice. Please advise patients of this when testing.

## Check MSM have had **both** doses of vaccine and encourage vaccination for those at risk

- Vaccination is recommended and available at no cost to all gay, bisexual men and sex workers, and their sexual partners. Find a vaccine clinic: [health.nsw.gov.au/mpox-clinics](https://health.nsw.gov.au/mpox-clinics)
- People who are not fully vaccinated and report sexual or other close contact with someone with mpox should be offered post-exposure preventive vaccination (PEPV). [health.nsw.gov.au/mpox-pep](https://health.nsw.gov.au/mpox-pep)
- There have been no hospitalisations in people who have received two vaccinations

## Clade Ib circulating in Africa, Public Health Emergency International Concern (PHEIC) declared

- If mpox is suspected in a returned traveller or someone who has had contact with a returned traveller from Africa, call the PHU immediately on 1300 066 055
- See countries with clade Ib: [https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpx\\_global/#32\\_Recent\\_trends](https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpx_global/#32_Recent_trends)
- Mpox is not recommended as a travel vaccine, unless already in an eligible group in NSW as described here: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/mpox-travel.aspx>

## Further advice

- A GP webinar is scheduled for 30th September. <https://www.racgp.org.au/racgp-digital-events-calendar/online-event-items/webinars/stay-ahead-in-sexual-health-navigating-mpox-and-do>
- Additional information: [health.nsw.gov.au/mpox](https://health.nsw.gov.au/mpox)
- Your local sexual health clinic ([health.nsw.gov.au/sexual-health-clinics](https://health.nsw.gov.au/sexual-health-clinics)) or Sexual Health Info Link on 1800 451 624, Monday to Friday 9am - 7pm; select option 1 for health professionals.



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