

MPOX UPDATE

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

1. Mpox is circulating in NSW amongst men who have sex with men (MSM)
2. Vaccinated people may present with only 1-2 anogenital lesions
3. Encourage mpox vaccination in eligible people presenting for routine care

Mpox is circulating in NSW

- Eight cases of mpox were diagnosed in MSM in NSW in the last week; some have been linked to an outbreak in Victoria, but local transmission has also occurred
- Mpox transmission is continuing to occur in Victoria and Queensland

Vaccinated people may present with only a few lesions

- Clinical presentation includes:
 - vesicular rash/lesions, often in the genital area, but can occur on any part of the body
 - vaccinated people are presenting with subtle signs/symptoms – e.g., 1-2 anogenital lesions only
 - painful proctitis without visible lesions
- Prodrome may occur with fever, malaise, myalgia, and/or lymphadenopathy

Test all MSM with compatible symptoms even if vaccinated and few lesions

- Test all MSM with compatible symptoms, regardless of severity, vaccination status, or travel history
- Re-infection is rare but possible; test MSM with symptoms, even if previously infected

Collect dry swabs or lesion tissue/crusts

- Wear a surgical mask, gown, and gloves while examining and taking swabs
- Swab deroofed pustule or vesicle using a dry swab; use separate swabs for multiple lesions
- If no fluid-filled vesicles/pustules are present send lesion tissue or crusts in a dry container
- A dry anorectal swab can be sent for patients with anal symptoms
- Request PCR for mpox, syphilis, herpes simplex virus (HSV) and lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) through your usual pathology provider
- For further testing advice: <https://sti.guidelines.org.au/sexually-transmissible-infections/monkeypox/>

Advice to provide at the time of testing

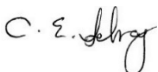
- Abstain from sexual activity and close contact with others until their rash/lesions heal completely i.e. no new lesions appear, scabs have fallen off, and new skin has formed, and any anal symptoms have completely resolved
- Keep lesions covered with clothing or a dressing
- Provide the patient with the mpox fact sheet for cases: health.nsw.gov.au/mpox-cases

Encourage vaccination

- Mpox vaccination (JYNNEOS) consists of 2 doses at least 4 weeks apart and is recommended for:
 - all gay and bisexual men (cis and trans) and their sexual partners
 - sex workers
 - high-risk unvaccinated or partially vaccinated contacts, ideally within 4 days of exposure
- Vaccination is free. Find a vaccine clinic at health.nsw.gov.au/mpox-clinics

Further information

- Notify the local public health unit of suspected cases by calling 1300 066 055
- Contact your local [sexual health clinic](#) or call Sexual Health Info Link (SHIL) (1800 451 624 Monday to Friday 9am - 7pm) and select option 1 for health professionals
- For further information, see health.nsw.gov.au/mpox



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