

Monkeypox

What is monkeypox?

Monkeypox is a rare disease that is caused by infection with monkeypox virus. Small rodents (not monkeys) are thought to mainly harbour the virus and infect people who come in contact with them (primary cases). Human-to-human transmission (secondary cases) is also possible.

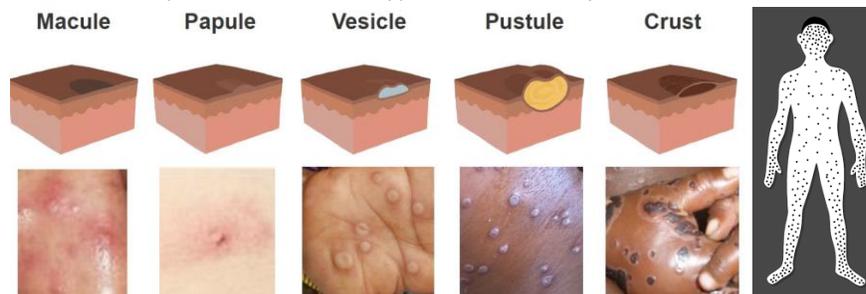
Mode of transmission:

Transmission of monkeypox virus occurs primarily via:

- Direct contact with an infected human or animal
- Contact with contaminated environment (e.g., linens)
- Respiratory droplets
- Aerosol transmission theoretically possible

When to consider:

- Fever PLUS typical rash
 - Rash typically involves face, and may include the soles, palms and genitals (which may be your clue)
 - Rash moves in stages from macule → papule → vesicle → pustule → crust/scab (all lesions tend to move through each stage at the same time)
- OR known exposure to another person with monkeypox within 21 days



Epi links to consider:

- Previously: isolated to endemic areas (Western and Central Africa)
- Recently: new cases in multiple countries (e.g., UK, Portugal, US, Canada) with NO travel history
- New cases seem more common in men who have sex with men (does NOT mean it is sexually transmitted, may be due to close contact)

What to do if you suspect a case:

- Initiate Airborne, Droplet and Contact Precautions
 - PPE = N95 respirator, eye protection, gloves and gown (doff gown and gloves inside room)
 - Place the patient in a negative pressure room (If room not immediately available, separate patient from others)
- Contact IPAC immediately
 - 0800-1600 (M-F): pager ID 8464 || after hours: page IPAC on-call via MSO/AOC
- Page Infectious Diseases (ID) on-call

Lab/Medical Imaging

- Consult IPAC, who will liaise with Microbiologist on-call for further instructions before sending specimens
 - Testing kits with instructions will be in ED and birthing triage
 - MRPs are responsible for collection of specimens from lesions
 - Do not send specimens for monkeypox testing until Core Lab has been notified
- There are no restrictions on routine blood work and diagnostic imaging (appropriate PPE must be used)

Cleaning/disinfection/waste:

- EVS to perform two-stage terminal clean wearing appropriate PPE
- Dispose of waste in biohazard bin (contact EVS to obtain); keep bin inside room
- EVS to strip the bed and double bag linen in room while wearing appropriate PPE (EVS to quarantine all linen); keep hamper inside room