

Dear Physicians,

This is a notification reminding physicians and all primary care providers to keep mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) on the differential diagnosis when seeing patients with relevant symptoms and risk factors.

Mpox is a rare pox-like disease caused by the mpox virus. Symptoms include a painful rash, lymphadenopathy, fatigue, fever, myalgias, and generalized malaise. The rash begins as a macule then progresses to a painful vesicle.

Mpox is uncommon and patients presenting with a rash should be considered for other diagnoses such as syphilis, varicella, herpes, hand foot and mouth disease, or a viral exanthem. Mpox should be considered in the differential diagnosis of someone who has had, within 21 days prior to the onset of symptoms, any of the following exposures:

- Sexual contact with new, anonymous, or multiple partner(s).
- Sexual contact with a person(s) who had sexual contact with new, anonymous, or multiple partner(s).
- Significant contact with a person who had skin lesions such as macules, papules, pustules, vesicles, or ulcers with no known alternate cause.
- Contact with a known or probable case of mpox.

Transmission occurs through contact with bodily fluids, lesions, or items contaminated with bodily fluid or lesion material (clothing, bedding etc.). Individuals are infectious from the onset of the viral prodrome until the last scab falls off and the wound is epithelialized.

Investigations

Diagnosis is confirmed through a swab of the lesion fluid/purulent material after derroofing submitted in universal transport medium or submitting lesion material including scabs in a sterile container.

For information on immunization, mpox testing and on the infection prevention and control measures to be used when providing care to a person suspected of having a mpox infection please go here: [Monkeypox Information for Healthcare Providers | Alberta Health Services](#)

Additional Information

- Mpox vaccine is available for individuals meeting the eligibility criteria: [Mpox virus | Alberta.ca](#)
- Information for patients: [Mpox \(alberta.ca\)](#)