



ALERT FOR CLINICIANS

Monkeypox testing and vaccination update

KEY POINTS

- A Quick Guide for assessing and testing patients for monkeypox is [available online](#).
- Test all suspected cases that meet clinical and epidemiological criteria for monkeypox (MPX) while using appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Vaccination has commenced for those at greatest risk of severe disease and/or acquisition of MPX.
- Urgently [notify](#) Public Health of suspected, probable and confirmed cases of MPX. Public Health may facilitate an expedited pathology result.
- For up-to-date information, refer to the [WA Health Monkeypox webpage](#).

Epidemiological situation

- To date, over 42,000 confirmed cases from 95 countries have been reported, predominantly affecting gay, bisexual or other men who have sex with men (GBMSM). The majority of infections have been transmitted via sexual contact.
- As of 18 August 2022, there are 89 cases in Australia, with local transmission in Victoria and New South Wales.
- In WA, there have been four (4) confirmed cases of MPX, all acquired overseas.

Testing update and Quick Guide clinician flowchart

- Test suspected cases for monkeypox. Suspected cases are those with:
 - **A clinically compatible illness with rash or lesion(s)** on any part of the body (with or without lymphadenopathy, fever, headache, myalgia, arthralgia, backpain and fatigue) **AND**
 - **Epidemiological evidence** in the 21 days prior to symptom onset:
 - contact with a confirmed or probable case of MPX, OR
 - overseas travel, OR
 - sexual contact and/or other physical intimate contact with a GBMSM, OR
 - sexual contact and/or other physical intimate contact at social events associated with MPX activity, including sex-on-premises venues, raves, festivals, mass gatherings, or new sexual partners through digital apps.
- Consider monkeypox when testing patients with STI symptoms clinically compatible with MPX and a sexual and/or travel history that puts them at risk.
- Refer to the [Clinician Quick Guide flowchart](#) for primary healthcare workers in assessing and testing patients for suspected MPX.

Vaccination program

- A limited supply (1,300 doses) of the JYNNEOS smallpox/MPX vaccine is being rolled out to high-risk individuals. Vaccination is targeted to those at greatest risk of severe illness and/or acquisition of the MPX virus.
- At this stage, high-risk patients are being identified through public health or sexual health clinics, but as the vaccination program expands, other priority groups will be offered the vaccine, and further details will be provided to GPs regarding referral.
- For more information about the vaccine, refer to the [WA Health Monkeypox webpage](#).

Notification of cases

- Suspected, probable and confirmed cases are to be notified **urgently** to Public Health.
- Public Health Unit contact details are [available online](#), and in the MPX Quick Guide.

Dr Paul Effler

A/DIRECTOR, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTORATE

Access Clinician Alerts at ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_I/Health-alerts-infectious-diseases