

<p>IN THIS ISSUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ALERT: Risk of mpox Resurgence this Summer 	<p>FROM: Nicholas Brandon, MD, MA, MSc, CCFP, FRCPC Acting Medical Officer of Health</p>
--	---

<p>Key Messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There may be a resurgence of mpox cases this summer. ▪ Be alert for signs and symptoms of mpox and test when appropriate. ▪ Advise eligible individuals to complete a 2-dose series of Imvamune®. ▪ Report all suspected and confirmed mpox cases to Peel Public Health.

ALERT: Risk of mpox Resurgence this Summer

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has alerted health professionals to a potential resurgence of mpox in Canada this summer due to the upcoming summer travel season, increased mass gatherings, and incomplete vaccine-induced protection against mpox infection.

Mpox in Ontario 2023:

- Mpox continues to circulate in Ontario and globally.
- To date in 2023, 18 confirmed mpox cases have been reported in Ontario (one confirmed case in Peel and 14 cases in Toronto).
- Most cases report no travel history.
- The majority of mpox cases have occurred among individuals identifying as gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM).
- Across Ontario, vaccine coverage continues to be low. Of those who received a first dose of Imvamune®, only 20% have received a second dose.

Clinical Management:

- Mpox has a broad range of clinical presentations. Common symptoms include:
 - fever/chills
 - new rash/lesions (may include oral, genital, and/or perianal lesions)
 - lymphadenopathy
 - rectal pain
 - headache, myalgia and/or fatigue
- The clinical presentation of mpox in vaccinated individuals may be more mild or subclinical. Use a lower threshold to test in at-risk groups.
- When testing for mpox virus, consider screening and testing for other sexually transmitted and blood borne infections.
- For information on appropriate specimen collection refer to: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Laboratory-Services/Test-Information-Index/Monkeypox-Virus>
- The antiviral tecovirimat (TPOxx®) is available for use in mpox patients at risk of (e.g., severely immunocompromised) or experiencing severe disease.

Reporting:

- Clinicians are required to report all suspected and confirmed mpox cases to Peel Public Health by:
- Calling 905-799-7700, AND/OR
 - Completing the fillable version of the Ontario mpox investigation tool and faxing to 647-260-7603. This tool is available at: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Diseases-and-Conditions/Infectious-Diseases/Vector-Borne-Zoonotic-Diseases/mpox> under “Form or Tool”.

June 13, 2023; Vol. 16, No. 19

Vaccination:

- Imvamune® is authorized in Canada for protection against mpox. Eligible individuals should receive a two-dose series, spaced apart by at least 28 days.
- Vaccine effectiveness against mpox infection ranges from 37% to 86% after a single dose and 66 to 83% after a two-dose series. It is strongly recommended that eligible individuals complete their Imvamune® series, especially prior to travel.
- Interactions with Imvamune® and other vaccines have not been established. If vaccine timing can be planned, it is recommended to wait at least four weeks for live vaccines (or COVID-19 vaccines) or two weeks for inactive vaccines before or after administration of Imvamune®.
- Please contact Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 to confirm eligibility and order vaccine for preexposure and post-exposure vaccination. Vaccination eligibility criteria are outlined in the Ontario Ministry of Health's guidelines for Imvamune®:
https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/emb/docs/Monkeypox_Imvamune_Guidance_HC_P.pdf.
- Clinicians can also refer patients who are eligible for vaccination to Peel Public Health. Eligible patients can book a vaccine appointment at the Healthy Sexuality clinic by calling 905-799-7700.

Patient Education:

- Advise patients that the risk of mpox can be reduced by having fewer sexual partners, using barrier methods (e.g., condoms, dental dams, gloves and clothing during sexual activity), and avoiding close or sexual contact with anyone who is feeling unwell.
- If a patient has been **exposed** to a case of mpox:
 - instruct them to self-monitor for symptoms for 21 days from last exposure
 - for high-risk exposures, advise patient to refrain from sexual contact for 21 days

- call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 to determine eligibility for post-exposure vaccination
- If a patient has **symptoms** of mpox, instruct them to:
 - self-isolate at home and limit contact with others while awaiting test results
 - maintain good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
 - clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces and objects in their home
 - avoid contact with animals

Resources for Patients:

- The Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance website <https://gmsa.ca/2022/05/20/mpox/> is a patient friendly resource that provides information about mpox and vaccine clinics in Ontario.

Resources for Clinicians:

- Ministry of Health. Mpox in 2023: Information for Clinicians:
https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/emb/docs/monkeypox_info_for_clinicians.pdf