



RE-EMERGENCE OF MPOX IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Communicable Disease Control Directorate (CDCD) is reminding health care providers in Western Australia to be alert for possible cases of mpox (formerly known as monkeypox).

Mpox has re-emerged in Australia, with over 1200 cases notified in 2024, mainly in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. Almost all cases have been males who are gay, bisexual or have sex with men and 92% were acquired locally in Australia. All Australian acquired cases are confirmed or suspected as clade II - the milder strain circulating in the Eastern states. Refer to the [National Communicable Disease Surveillance Dashboard](#) for further details.

Clinical presentation

- Mpox may present with a rash or lesion on any part of the body, including mouth or rectum.
- Rash may be maculopapular or a vesicle, pustule, ulcer or scab. It may lead to proctitis or urethritis.
- Occurs with or without prodromal symptoms; fever, lymphadenopathy, headache, myalgia, arthralgia, sore throat or back pain.
- Symptoms among vaccinated individuals may be atypical or less severe (e.g. one pimple).

Testing for Mpox

Test anyone who is sexually active with any symptoms, particularly those with the following risk factors:

- contact with a case of mpox
- sex or intimate contact with men who have sex with men
- casual or anonymous sexual encounters including at sex-on-premises venues (e.g. adult shops, clubs, saunas).

Wear personal protective equipment while collecting samples (surgical mask or P2/N95 mask if patient has respiratory symptoms, gloves, disposable fluid resistant gown and eye protection). Ensure suspected cases with clinical and epidemiological evidence are notified urgently to your local [Public Health Unit](#).

Mpox vaccination

- Free Jynneos® vaccine is available for sexually active gay, bisexual or other MSM (and their sexual partners), healthcare workers at risk for mpox, laboratory workers handling live virus, and sex workers (and their sexual partners).
- Two doses given at least 28 days apart will ensure optimal protection against infection.

Ordering mpox (JYNNEOS®) vaccines

The mpox vaccine, Jynneos®, can now be ordered via <http://www.onelinkonline.net>. Please note that once these vaccines are thawed at the warehouse, they will expire in 24 weeks. Please order what your clinic needs but be aware that the doses that you are supplied may have shorter expiry once they arrive at your site. Expired doses should not be used.

Workforce Development

You can access recordings from mpox webinars here:

- [National mpox webinar: Testing and Vaccination on Vimeo](#)
- [RACGP - WA: Navigating Mpox](#)

Community Awareness

The WA Department of Health has developed a toolkit for services to use that includes a range of resources designed to increase awareness of Mpox. The toolkit can be accessed online at: [Mpox resources - communications toolkit \(health.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.health.wa.gov.au/resources/communications-toolkit)