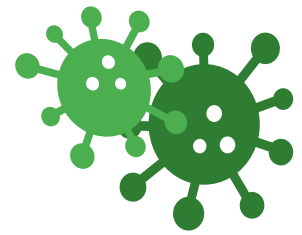


# Monkeypox Virus in Canada



Monkeypox (MPXV) is a viral infection that can be spread from animals to humans or between people. It causes a disease that is similar to smallpox but is usually less severe.

## Transmission



Those who were exposed to MPXV cases through prolonged or intimate contact are at higher risk of MPXV. Transmission can also occur through:

- Skin-to-skin contact
- Contact with bodily fluids, scabs or lesions
- Contact with contaminated surfaces or objects
- Face-to-face contact

**Anyone can become infected and infect others with monkeypox.**

## Clinical Presentation

Unlike traditional MPXV, lesions may appear at **asynchronous stages** of development and may precede other constitutional symptoms.

Almost all cases report at least one lesion while 1/3 of cases had lesions **ONLY** in the genital or anal region.



## Differential Diagnosis

Lesions associated with monkeypox can resemble several other infections including:

- Herpesvirus (HSV, varicella virus)
- Syphilis
- LGV
- Chancroid
- Other poxviruses

Co-infections of gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, HIV and hepatitis are possible.

Consider risk-informed STI testing.

## Severe Disease & Complications

Monkeypox can lead to other complications like pneumonia, encephalitis, sepsis, myocarditis and severe pharyngitis.

All hospitalizations to-date have been **related to secondary bacterial infection**, ophthalmic involvement and increased risk of upper airway obstruction.

## Infection Prevention and Control

In Canada, the risk of patient-HCW transmission is **relatively low**.

Suspect, probable or confirmed MPXV infections should be placed in single-patient rooms, or if not available, patients should don a medical mask, maximize social distancing and cover exposed skin lesions

HCW and all personnel handling waste or contaminated material from MPXV cases should be equipped with **gloves, gown, ocular protection and seal-checked respirator or equivalent**. Hand hygiene should be performed.

All Drug Identification Number (DIN) hospital grade cleaning and disinfectants agents are effective for shared equipment and surfaces.

