



**Department of Health**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNIQUE**  
**General Practices and Emergency Departments** □

**Monkeypox**

**20 May 2022**

*Please distribute this information to all medical staff.*

**Key points:**

- 1. There are 66 cases of monkeypox in Europe and North America.**
- 2. Most cases were men who have sex with men (MSM) with no recent travel to West Africa.**
- 3. There have been no reports of monkeypox in Queensland.**
- 4. If you suspect monkeypox, clinicians are advised to immediately seek advice from an infectious disease specialist**
- 5. Clinicians should advise their local public health unit of suspected cases.**

**What is the issue?**

- There are 66 cases of monkeypox in Europe and North America. Recent cases have predominantly been detected in gay, bisexual, or men who have sex with men (MSM).
- Monkeypox is a rare zoonotic viral infection usually associated with travel to West and Central Africa. One case in the UK had recently returned from Nigeria. Other cases have not reported any recent travel, indicating likely community transmission.
- No case of monkeypox has been detected in QLD to date.

**How does monkeypox present?**

- First symptoms (prodrome) of monkeypox include fever, malaise, headache, and sometimes sore throat and cough, and lymphadenopathy.
- Following the prodrome, lesions first begin in the mouth and spread to the face, arms and legs. Lesions start as a macular rash that develops into papules, vesicles, then pustules, which crust and fall off.

**How is monkeypox transmitted?**

- Infection of humans results from direct contact with the blood, bodily fluids, or cutaneous or mucosal lesions of infected animals. In Africa, evidence of monkeypox virus infection has been found in many animals.
- Person-to-person transmission is unusual, and is mainly through direct contact of lesion material, or via respiratory droplets. Monkeypox has not previously been described as a sexually transmissible infection though it can be passed on by direct contact during sex and contact with clothing or linen used by a person who has monkeypox.

**How to manage a suspect monkeypox case**

- Clinicians are asked to look out for signs and symptoms consistent with monkeypox particularly in returned travellers or persons with clinically compatible rash. A telemedicine consultation is advisable where possible.
- If monkeypox is suspected, immediately notify your local infectious diseases specialist to discuss the case and management.
- Isolate the patient and ask the patient to wear a surgical mask while awaiting further advice. Your infectious diseases specialist will advise on the appropriate test.
- While no specific treatments are generally required, consult with your local infectious diseases

specialist for further advice. Monkeypox is usually a mild self-limiting illness and most people recover within a few weeks

**Further information**

- Please contact your local Public Health Unit.
- Further information on the global situation: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2022-DON383>

Adapted from: NSW Health 2022 Infectious Diseases Alert

**Dr Alun Richards**

Acting Executive Director, Communicable Diseases Branch, Queensland Health  
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