



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



Mpox Update

On August 14, 2024, the [World Health Organization](#) declared mpox to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern due to the spread of the more severe clade I strain of the virus in countries in West and Central Africa. To date, no cases of mpox clade I have been reported in Ontario.

In early 2022, an outbreak of mpox began in Europe and quickly spread worldwide, including to Canada, with most infections occurring as a result of direct and prolonged close contact with an infected person via intimate or sexual contact. Although the mpox outbreak in Ontario was declared over in December 2022, mpox infections continue to be detected, suggesting ongoing local transmission in Ontario.

An increase in mpox activity has been observed in Ontario since January 2024 with 142 confirmed cases occurring from January 1 to August 10, 2024, with a small number of cases in Durham Region.

Action Requested

1. Continue to monitor and test for mpox, especially those with compatible signs and symptoms. The prodrome symptoms include:
 - fever
 - chills
 - myalgia
 - fatigue
 - headache
 - backache and
 - sometimes sore throat and cough.

The rash/lesion develops after one to three days and usually lasts two to four weeks, progressing through successive stages of macules, papules, vesicles, and pustules before the lesions crust and fall off with new skin formed.

2. Follow [Public Health Ontario's Mpox Test Information Index](#) when submitting samples for testing:
 - If the patient has skin lesions:
 - a maximum of three swabs from three different skin lesions can be submitted
 - NP swab/blood specimens are not necessary
 - If the patient does not have skin lesions or you are unable to submit skin lesion swabs, then order NP swab and blood specimens
 - Anal or rectal swabs are recommended on patients with lesions in these locations, or symptoms of involvement, e.g. rectal pain.

... over

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | [durham.ca/health](#)

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



Action Requested - continued

3. Recommend [eligible](#) patients receive mpox vaccination (Imvamune®).

Eligibility is broad and includes people who self-identify as belonging to the gay, bisexual, pansexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) community and who have more than one partner, have had a confirmed sexually transmitted infection within the last year, have attended venues for sexual contact (e.g., bath houses, sex clubs), or have had anonymous sex recently. Also eligible are people who engage in sex work or those who are sexual contacts of those engaging in sex work, or staff or volunteers in sex-on-premises venues where workers may have contact with fomites.

- a. Eligible individuals planning to travel internationally should receive vaccination four to six weeks prior to travel, particularly if travelling to countries with ongoing mpox transmission.
- b. Individuals who meet the eligibility criteria can book an Imvamune® vaccination appointment. Appointments can be made by calling one of our Sexual Health Clinics:
 - Oshawa: 905-433-8901 or 1-800-314-8533
 - Pickering: 905-420-878
- c. Alternatively, appointments are available at:
 - The Positive Care Clinic
Lakeridge Health Whitby, 300 Gordon St., Whitby
Phone: 905-668-6831 ext. 53127

Reporting

Mpox is an immediately reportable disease in Ontario. Please continue to report any cases of mpox promptly to the Durham Region Health Department:

- Phone: 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 ext. 2996
- After Hours Phone: 905-576-9991 or 1-800-372-1104
- Confidential Fax: 905-666-6215
- Submit reports online (after calling) using the [Diseases of Public Health Significance Notification Form](#) (www.durham.ca/hcp [under Forms, Reporting])
 - Please note this is a **NEW** online form, but confidential faxes are still accepted.

Additional Resources

For additional information about mpox, please visit:

- [Ministry of Health - Mpox Virus](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada - Mpox](#)
- [Public Health Ontario's epidemiological summary](#)
- Durham.ca/mpox

August 21, 2024