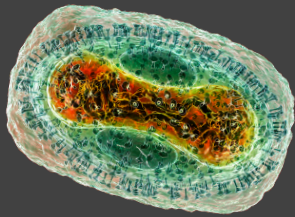


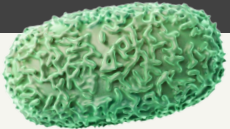
Mpox: What Physicians Need to Know

What is Mpox ?

Mpox (formerly monkeypox) is a disease caused by the monkeypox virus, an enveloped double-stranded DNA virus of the Orthopoxvirus genus in the Poxviridae family.



There are two broad clades of the Mpox virus: clade I and II. Clade II was behind the global Mpox outbreak that began in 2022.

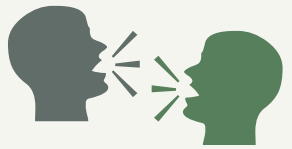


How is Mpox transmitted?

- Mpox is usually transmitted through **close, sustained physical contact** and has been almost exclusively associated with sexual contact in the 2022-2023 global outbreak.

Close contact includes:

- Skin-to-skin (touching, or sex)
- Mouth-to-mouth
- Mouth-to-skin contact (kissing)
- Face-to-face with someone who has Mpox (talking or breathing close to one another)



What are the signs and symptoms of Mpox?

- Incubation period: 3-17 days**
- Duration of illness: 2 - 4 weeks**



- Signs and symptoms include rash, fever, malaise, chills, headache, lymphadenopathy, pruritus, rectal pain/bleeding.
- The rash evolves through 4 stages—macular, papular, vesicular, to pustular—before scabbing and desquamation.
- Lesions can appear anywhere in the body and can be found on the face, mouth, hands, feet, chest and anogenital region.

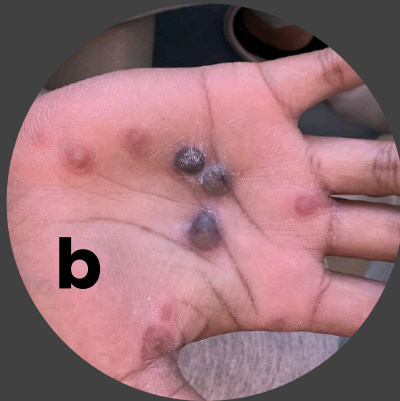
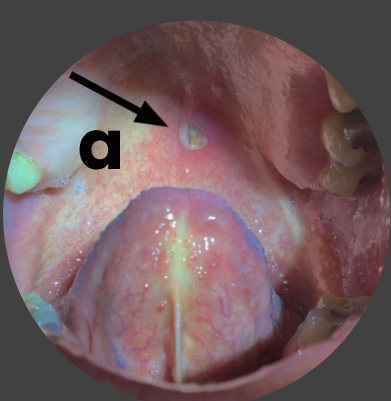


Fig. 1. Oral and cutaneous Mpox lesions: a) ulcerated lesion on upper palate; b) multiple stages of evolution of macules on the palm; c) macules on hand and finger

How are patients with suspected Mpox evaluated?



Conduct a thorough patient history to assess possible Mpox exposures or epidemiologic risk factors.

Perform a complete physical examination including a thorough skin and mucosal evaluation for the characteristic maculopustular rash of Mpox.



Consider Mpox when trying to determine the cause of a diffuse or localized rash.

Where should I refer patients with suspected Mpox for testing?



“A definitive diagnosis of Mpox is made by detection of the virus by PCR from a specimen obtained from a cutaneous or mucocutaneous site.”

If you suspect a patient to have Mpox, contact the **Department of Health Epidemiology Bureau** or refer to the nearest **Mpox Referral Hospital** for diagnostic confirmation and evaluation.

