

Manitoba



Health

Public Health

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Dear Health Care Provider:

**Re: Monkeypox Update #5**

Cases of monkeypox continue to spread across many countries that do not normally report monkeypox, including Canada. As of October 3, provinces and territories in Canada have publicly reported 1,400 cases, with only one confirmed case in Manitoba. Anyone can become infected with monkeypox. However, in Canada and around the world, infections have been primarily reported among people who self-identify as belonging to the gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) community.

As of October 6, 2022, Manitoba Health will be expanding eligibility to include pre-exposure prophylaxis for Manitobans who meet the eligibility criteria below. **These individuals will also be eligible for a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of vaccine, given at least 28 days after the 1<sup>st</sup> dose, to complete their vaccine series.**

**Eligibility for pre-exposure prophylaxis vaccination:**

Eligible individuals are

- cisgender, transgender or two-spirit people who self-identify as belonging to the gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) community and meet at least one of the following criteria:
  - have received a diagnosis of a sexually transmitted infection **in the past year**;
  - have had two or more sexual partners **in the past 90 days**;
  - have attended locations for sexual contact (e.g. bath houses or sex clubs) or are planning to;
  - have had anonymous sex **in the past 90 days** (i.e. using apps, online sites, formal/informal gatherings) or are planning to;
- **any sexual contacts of the individuals described above**
- **individuals who self-identify as sex workers, regardless of self-identified sex/gender**
- **staff or volunteers in sex-on-premises venues where workers may have contact with objects or materials that may be contaminated with the monkeypox virus without the use of personal protective equipment.**

Vaccination used for pre-exposure prophylaxis may help prevent the onset of the disease or make it less severe. At this time, it is recommended that the individuals listed above be provided with two doses of vaccine for pre-exposure prophylaxis, administered 28 days apart. Two doses of vaccine represents a complete primary series of Imvamune® vaccine.

Post-exposure prophylaxis continues to be available for close contacts of a confirmed or probable monkeypox case. Individuals who have already received a dose of Imvamune® for pre-exposure prophylaxis may be eligible for a second dose as post-exposure prophylaxis as determined in consultation with public health.

### **How to book:**

As of 9 am on October 6, 2022, the expanded eligibility will come into effect for individuals to book preventative monkeypox immunization in communities across the province using the online booking tool at <https://patient.petal-health.com/login?groupId=6032> or by calling Health Links-Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257. Note: online booking is available for eligible individuals 18 years and older. Individuals who are younger than 18 years old should contact their local public health office for further discussion.

If appointments in the online system are not easily accessible, individuals can also contact their public health office ([www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html)) to schedule an immunization. Public Health will also be reaching out to eligible populations to support immunization efforts.

Health care providers are uniquely positioned to assess eligibility criteria and discuss the risks and benefits of the vaccine. As a result, they are encouraged to help patients make informed choices including a reminder that the risk of exposure to the monkeypox virus is not exclusive to any group or setting.

Manitoba Health will continue to monitor closely the risk of exposure for all Manitobans and work collaboratively with community organizations and stakeholders to ensure consistency in the provincial guidance. As the situation evolves, updated information and resources on monkeypox will continue to be posted on the Manitoba Health website at [www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/monkeypox.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/monkeypox.html).

Sincerely,

*“Original Signed By”*

Richard Baydack, PhD  
**Director,  
Communicable Disease Control**

*“Original Signed By”*

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**Medical Lead, Vaccines,  
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