

Confirmed Monkeypox Cases Identified in Quebec

Update to York Region health care providers as of May 20, 2022

Two cases of monkeypox were recently confirmed in Quebec, the first cases to be reported in Canada. Monkeypox cases have also been identified in the United States, several countries in Europe, and Australia, even though this is a disease endemic in parts of Central and West Africa. Some jurisdictions are reporting cases among men who report having sex with other men.

Monkeypox is spread to people through direct contact with the bodily fluids or lesions of infected animals or people, via respiratory droplets from an infected person, or through contact with materials contaminated with the virus (e.g., clothing, bedding). The incubation period averages seven to 14 days, with a range of five to 21 days.

Symptoms include fever, headache, swollen lymph nodes, and lethargy, followed by the development of a rash (usually after 1 to 3 days of fever onset). This rash can mimic several other sexually transmitted infections and recent cases have had genital lesions.

Consider monkeypox in your differential diagnosis of patients presenting with unusual rash, plus other clinical signs consistent with monkeypox (e.g., fever, headache, and/or lymphadenopathy) and/or a history of sexual contact and travel.

Patients with compatible clinical and exposure history should be tested. Please use a standard viral swab that would be used to test sexually transmitted infections. It is recommended that several swabs be sent to test for monkeypox and other sexually transmitted infections, as appropriate.

You can review the testing information from Public Health Ontario (PHO) at their [Monkeypox Virus information page](#). Clinicians are advised to consult with a PHOL microbiologist prior to specimen collection. York Region Public Health can help facilitate this consultation.

If you suspect a case of monkeypox, please contact:

- York Region Public Health – Infectious Diseases and Outbreak Management at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73588 (M-F, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) or 905-953-6478 (outside of business hours) and CIDIntakeLine@york.ca.
- PHO and PHO Laboratory at 416-235-6556 and epir@oahpp.ca

Public health can help facilitate contact with PHO and the PHO Laboratory. This process will be updated once more information is available from the Ministry of Health and as this situation evolves.

Any individual with a suspected case of monkeypox should isolate while they are being tested and while waiting for results.

Contact York Region Public Health

Public Health will share further information as it becomes available. If you have any questions, contact York Region Public Health at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73588.