

**Manitoba**



**Health**

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Dear Health Care Provider:

**Re: Monkeypox Update #3**

Cases of monkeypox continue to spread across many countries that do not normally report monkeypox, including Canada. On July 23, 2022, the WHO Director General issued a statement declaring that the global monkeypox outbreak represents a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). As of August 3, provinces and territories in Canada have publicly reported 890 cases. Anyone can become infected with monkeypox. However, in Canada and around the world, at this time infections have been primarily reported among people who self-identify as belonging to the gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men community.

In Manitoba, the vaccine was made available in June for post-exposure prophylaxis to close contacts of confirmed or probable monkeypox cases. While no suspect or confirmed cases have been reported in Manitoba at this time, our health officials continue to work closely with federal partners to secure additional vaccine supplies to support a pre-exposure prophylaxis strategy and proactively prevent spread within the province.

As of August 5, Manitoba Health will be expanding eligibility to include pre-exposure prophylaxis for Manitobans who meet the eligibility criteria below.

**Eligibility for pre-exposure prophylaxis:**

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 chlamydia, gonorrhea, and/or syphilis in the past two months,
- Have had two or more sexual partners in the last 21 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 21 days (i.e. using apps, online sites, formal/informal gatherings) or are planning to, or
- Engage in sex work or plan to, either as a worker or a client.

Vaccination used for pre-exposure prophylaxis may help prevent the onset of the disease or make it less severe. At this time, due to the limited national and global vaccine supply, pre-exposure prophylaxis will consist of a single dose of 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 Monday, August 8, eligible individuals will be able to book preventative monkeypox immunization at the following three locations in Winnipeg:

- Klinik Community Health, 167 Sherbrook St.,
- Access Winnipeg West, 280 Booth Dr., and
- Our Own Health Centre, 230 Osborne St.

through the online booking system available 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.

Individuals outside of Winnipeg can 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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