

# Reminder to do a clinical assessment and encourage vaccination for Mpox

Update to York Region health care professionals as of June 21, 2024

Since January 2024, there have been 58 cases of mpox in Ontario, predominantly in the Greater Toronto Area. There has been one reported case of mpox in York Region for 2024.

As outlined in Ontario's Ministry of Health's updated guidance on [Mpox information for Clinicians](#), mild and subclinical infections are suspected of causing ongoing transmission.

## Keep mpox on the differential diagnosis and have a low threshold to test in risk groups with compatible symptoms

Mpox has a broad range of clinical presentations with common symptoms, including rash/lesions in one (genital or peri-anal area, mouth) or more locations (diffuse body rash), fever/chills, fatigue, lymphadenopathy, headache, myalgias, pharyngitis and proctitis.

[Testing](#) by taking swabs of the lesions is highly sensitive and you may submit up to three swabs per patient. If a patient has no lesions, a nasopharyngeal or throat swab and a blood test should be taken.

The same specimens can be tested for herpesviruses (e.g., HSV, varicella) and enterovirus if indicated on the requisition. Other entities on your differential (e.g., syphilis) require additional specimens.

## Continue to promote mpox vaccination to people at risk

Reminding people at risk to get a full two-dose series of Imvamune to obtain optimal protection is important. This includes people who:

- Identify as being part of the gay, bisexual, pansexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) community
- Identify as engaging in sex work
- Are household and/or sexual contacts of those who are eligible AND who are moderately to severely immunocompromised or pregnant

## York Region Public Health mpox vaccination and treatment

Presently, only 25% of people who have received their first dose of Imvamune have received their second dose.

People can book an appointment for the Imvamune vaccine at the York Region Sexual Health Clinics by calling 1-866-361-5653 and pressing one. More information about Mpox vaccinations and clinic locations is available at [york.ca/sexualhealthclinics](http://york.ca/sexualhealthclinics).

Health care professionals can request the antiviral treatment [TPoxx®](#) for people who are severely ill and/or disabled due to mpox infection or at high risk for severe disease (e.g., severely immunocompromised) by emailing the Ministry's Vaccine Policy and Programs Branch at [vaccinesupplyandlogistics@ontario.ca](mailto:vaccinesupplyandlogistics@ontario.ca).

## Isolation and reporting of suspect mpox cases

Mpox is a disease of public health significance. If you strongly suspect mpox, you are required to [report any suspect cases](#) to York Region Public Health by calling 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73588 (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) or 905-953-6478 (after 4:30 p.m. and 24/7 on weekends and holidays).

It is also important to inform patients about [self-isolation](#) requirements to prevent mpox infection from spreading to others.