

**Manitoba**



**Health**

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2022-08-26

Dear Health Care Provider:

**Re: Monkeypox Update #4**

Cases of monkeypox continue to spread across many countries that do not normally report monkeypox, including Canada. As of August 26, provinces and territories in Canada have publicly reported 1,228 cases. The first case of monkeypox in Manitoba was identified on August 19. 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.

As of August 29, 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 a sexually transmitted infection **in the past six months**;
  - have had two or more sexual partners **in the last 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;
  - engaged in sex work or plan to, as a worker or client;
- **any sexual contacts of the individuals described above.**

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 29, newly eligible individuals will be able 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”*

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Communicable Disease Control