



# Interim Guidance for the Public Health Management of Cases and Contacts of mpox in Ireland - **Chapter 4: Contact Tracing Matrix (Clade I and Clade II)**

Please note that this document should be used in tandem with other [Interim Management of Mpox documents](#).

Readers should not rely solely on the information contained within these guidelines. Guidance information is not intended to be a substitute for advice from other relevant sources including, but not limited to, the advice from a health professional. Clinical judgement and discretion will be required in the interpretation and application of this guidance. This guidance is under constant review based upon emerging evidence at national and international levels and national policy decisions.

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# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose

This guidance provides principles for Public Health Risk Assessment (PHRA) and follow-up of contacts of confirmed mpox cases that are caused by both HCID<sup>1</sup> (i.e. Clade I) and non-HCID (i.e. Clade II) strains of mpox virus (MPXV).

An mpox case is defined as a case that meets the confirmed or highly probable [case definition](#).

The following patients should be managed as **HCID cases** (pending confirmation of clade type where appropriate):

- Confirmed case of Clade I mpox
- Confirmed or clinically suspected mpox case but clade not yet known and:
  - There is a travel history to the any of the specified countries with high endemicity<sup>2</sup> where there may be a risk of Clade I exposure, or a link to a suspected case from those countries (within 21 days of symptom onset and/or there is an epidemiological link to a confirmed case of Clade I mpox within 21 days of symptom onset.

The following patients should be managed as **non-HCID cases**.

- Confirmed Clade II MPXV cases(s), or
- Confirmed or clinically suspected mpox but clade not known, and all the following conditions apply:
  - There is no history of travel to any of the specified countries with high endemicity<sup>2</sup> within 21 days of symptom onset.
  - There is no link to a suspected case from the specified countries with high endemicity<sup>3</sup> within 21 days of symptom onset.

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<sup>1</sup> **HCID:** High consequence infectious disease (HCID is defined as: an acute infectious disease; typically having a high case-fatality rate; not always having effective prophylaxis or treatment; often difficult to recognise and detect rapidly; able to spread in the community and within healthcare settings; and requiring an enhanced, individual, population, and system response to ensure it is managed effectively, efficiently and safely.

<sup>2</sup> Clade I mpox: affected countries. Available URL: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/clade-i-mpox-affected-countries> (accessed: 05/11/2025)

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organization (WHO), 2024. *2022-24 Mpox (Monkeypox) Outbreak: Global Trends*. Available URL: [https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpox\\_global/](https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpox_global/) (Accessed: 05/11/2024)

Health professionals undertaking the risk assessment should take into account the possible clade of mpox (**this is relevant as highly suspected Clade I case(s) are managed as HCID cases, and should have contact tracing started immediately**), extent of lesions at the time of exposure, as the risk of transmission will be higher if there are widespread uncovered lesions on uncovered areas (for example, hands or face) compared with, for example, a small number of localised genital lesions or if the case was displaying respiratory symptoms at the time of contact, compared to an asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic individual. Contact(s) who are within twenty-one days of exposure to confirmed case of mpox should be advised by the healthcare professional/s to inform any healthcare facility of this exposure when they present for medical assessment/treatment.

## 2.0 Contact Tracing

### 2.1 Rationale

Contact tracing is a key public health measure to control the spread of infectious pathogens such as MPXV. It allows for the interruption of chains of transmission and can also help people at a higher risk of developing severe disease to identify their exposure more quickly, so they can monitor their health status and seek medical care quickly if they become symptomatic. Cases should be interviewed as soon as possible to elicit the names and contact information of all potential contacts and identify events, gatherings, venues or places visited where contact with other people may have occurred. **Contacts of cases should be notified as soon as possible and advised to monitor their health status and seek medical care if they develop symptoms.**

In the current context, as soon as a suspected case is identified, contact identification and contact tracing should be initiated, while further investigation of the source case is ongoing to determine if the case can be classified as probable or confirmed; in the event that a case is classified as denotified (i.e., no longer considered a suspected or probable case), contact tracing may be adapted to the new circumstances (e.g. for contact notification for another sexually transmitted infection) or stopped if no longer required.

### 2.2 Definition of a Contact

A contact is defined as a person who has been exposed to a person with suspected (clinically compatible), probable or confirmed mpox during the infectious period (refer to

**Section 2.6** has additional information around General Principles for undertaking mpox Public Health Risk Assessment) and who has one or more of the following exposures:

- direct skin-to-skin, skin-to-mucosal or mouth-to-mucosal physical contact (such as touching, hugging, kissing, intimate oral or other sexual contact<sup>4</sup>);
- contact with contaminated materials such as personal belongings, clothing or bedding, including material dislodged from bedding or surfaces during handling of laundry or cleaning of contaminated rooms;
- prolonged face-to-face respiratory exposure in close proximity (inhalation of respiratory droplets and possibly short-range aerosols);
- respiratory (i.e., possible inhalation) or mucosal (e.g., eyes, nose, mouth) exposure to lesion material (e.g., scabs/crusts) from a person with mpox; and
- The above also apply for health workers potentially exposed in the absence of proper use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

In settings where zoonotic transmission occurs, community contacts for point source exposure may include other persons hunting, selling, preparing or consuming the bushmeat meal at the same time.

### **2.3 The purpose of contact tracing is to:**

- Ensure contacts are aware of:
  - their potential exposure;
  - their potential to develop infection even if fully vaccinated;
  - expectations of monitoring for any signs/symptoms (including the need to monitor for mild symptoms that can go unnoticed);
  - risk mitigation measures to practice for 21 days post-exposure, depending on the circumstances (e.g., ensure contacts are aware of and can evaluate the risks associated with planned activities including sexual activity, travelling or attending social events/gatherings);
  - the importance of consistently practising recommended public health measures, and
  - what to do if they develop mpox symptoms (e.g., isolate immediately, advise prompt medical assessment)

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<sup>4</sup> **Sexual contact** includes sexual intercourse, intimate skin on skin contact, or use of sex toys.

- Provide information about post-exposure prophylaxis and refer to their healthcare professional, if eligible, to prevent the onset of disease and stop further transmission;
- Identify symptomatic contacts (such as, additional cases) as early as possible; and
- Facilitate prompt clinical assessment by a healthcare professional, laboratory diagnostic testing and treatment if signs or symptoms develop.

It is recommended that all individuals who are contacts of a confirmed, probable or suspected case be rapidly identified and assessed by PHRA. Such assessment will determine their exposure risk level and the appropriate public health recommendations to follow.

**Recommendations are shown below, based on Clade and apply for the 21-day period following the contact's last exposure to a known probable<sup>5</sup> or confirmed case.**

**Note:** Along with determining exposure risk level, PHRA may further adjust recommendations based on a thorough individual assessment of a contact's specific risk factors. For example, PHRA may consider if the contact:

- has previously received vaccination against smallpox or mpox, and if so, consider the vaccine product, number of vaccines received, and the time since the last vaccine dose
  - For more information on vaccination recommendations based on the individual situation, refer to the [National Immunisation Advisory Committee \(NIAC\) guidelines](#).
- has recovered from a previous mpox infection.
- is at higher risk of severe disease, including individuals who are immunocompromised (e.g., HIV with low CD4 levels), pregnant or young children including infants.
- is resident in a setting which is high risk for transmission and/or may have higher risk of having immunocompromised individuals, especially congregate migrant settings.

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<sup>5</sup> With **proviso that these specific recommendations can be stood down, in the probable case is denotified**, but if another infectious disease is confirmed that appropriate Public Health actions are taken to mitigate for onward transmission.

## 2.4 Clade I MPVX

CLADE I MPVX (HCID)			
EXPOSURE RISK	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE SCENARIOS	PUBLIC HEALTH ADVICE
<p><b>HIGH</b></p> <p>Unprotected direct contact or high-risk environmental contact.</p>	<p>Direct exposure of broken skin or mucous membranes to an HCID (clade I) mpox case, their body fluids or potentially infectious material (including clothing or bedding) without wearing appropriate PPE.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inhalation of droplets or dust from cleaning contaminated rooms;</li> <li>• mucosal exposure to splashes;</li> <li>• penetrating sharps injury from contaminated device or through contaminated gloves (including and not exclusive to cleaning or laboratory staff); and</li> <li>• people who have shared a residence (shared kitchen and/or bathroom and/or living space) either on a permanent or part time basis with a person who has been diagnosed with mpox and who have spent at least one</li> </ul>	<p><b>Healthcare setting</b></p> <p>Bodily fluid in contact with eyes, nose, or mouth.</p> <p>Penetrating sharps injury from used needle.</p> <p>Person in room during aerosol-generating procedure without appropriate respiratory PPE.</p> <p>Changing a patient's bedding or cleaning a contaminated room without appropriate PPE.</p> <p><b>Non-healthcare setting</b></p> <p>Sexual or intimate contact with or without a condom.<sup>4</sup></p> <p>Higher risk household contacts who have had close skin to skin contact, for example frequent touching or cuddling, or who have shared bedding, providing care, clothing or towels with the case.</p>	<p><b>Active monitoring of contacts</b> for signs/symptoms via daily phone calls, texts, or emails - provide monitoring form (see <b>Appendix A</b>) and instructions for contacting healthcare facility as required (i.e. GP/OOH Service/Emergency Department).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If symptoms develop – immediately self-isolate, leave work, seek medical review, and abstain from all sexual contact. Also, should wear a well-fitted standard surgical mask whenever in a shared space with others, including household members.</li> </ul> <p>Practice proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.</p> <p>Do not donate bodily fluids or tissues, including blood and sperm.</p> <p>Individuals should avoid undertaking any travel, including international travel, until they are determined to no longer constitute a public health risk for others.</p> <p><b>Should risk assess for vaccination in line with NIAC recommendations (BN Vaccine (e.g. Imvanex ®) ideally within four days (up to a</b></p>



night in the residence during the period when the case was infectious.

**maximum of 14 days) post exposure.** The most current vaccine guidance can be found [here](#).

Avoid sexual or intimate contact and other activities involving skin to skin contact for 21 days from last exposure.

Avoid contact with immunocompromised people, pregnant women, and children aged under 5 years where possible for 21 days from last exposure.

Consider exclusion from work on case-by-case basis following a risk assessment for 21 days, if work involves contact with immunocompromised people, pregnant women, or children under 5 years (not limited to H&CWs). Risk assessment may consider redeployment if feasible.

Alert any H&CWs that provide medical care of the potential exposure risk.

Risk assess whether contacts who are children require exclusion from school.

Avoid attendance to specified high-risk settings like **congregate settings**<sup>6</sup>, where possible:

- If this is unavoidable, consider wearing a surgical mask in these settings, and allow single room occupancy/office with dedicated bathroom; or

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<sup>6</sup> **Congregate setting(s)**: refer to a range of facilities where people (most or all of whom are not related) live or stay overnight and use shared spaces (e.g., common sleeping areas, bathrooms, kitchens) such as: homeless shelters, refuges, group homes and State-provided accommodation for refugees and applicants seeking protection e.g. UCTAT, IPAS. This will also cover prisons, military bases, boarding schools, and detention centres. Those living or staying in the facility are referred to as residents.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For individuals who are resident in congregate settings, consider temporary accommodation in the <a href="#">National Infectious Diseases Isolation Facility</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Medium</b></p> <p>Unprotected exposure to infectious materials including droplet or airborne potential route.</p>	<p>Intact skin-only contact with an HCID (clade I) mpox case, their body fluids or potentially infectious material or contaminated fomites (excluding household contacts, as above).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Passengers seated directly next to a case on a plane (or any other mode of transport where it is known that they have sat next to the case). Specifically, passengers within one metre (i.e. same rows/in front/behind; all within car/van) for at least 15 minutes with an mpox case without wearing appropriate PPE.<sup>7</sup></p> <p>OR</p>	<p><b>Healthcare setting</b></p> <p>Clinical examination of patient before diagnosis without appropriate PPE.</p> <p>Entering patient’s room without wearing appropriate PPE and within one metre for at least 15 minutes with the case.</p> <p>Subsequent patients in consulting room after an mpox case was seen and prior to room cleaning.</p> <p>Spillage or leakage of laboratory specimen onto intact skin.</p> <p><b>Non-healthcare setting</b></p> <p>Lower risk household contact: individuals who live in the same household but do not meet the criteria of HIGH risk. Providing care for case/cared for by a case, or having skin/mucosal contact with case’s unwashed bedding, and personal items.</p>	<p><b>Active monitoring of contacts</b> for signs/symptoms via daily phone calls, texts, or emails - provide monitoring form (see <a href="#">Appendix A</a>) and instructions for contacting healthcare facility as required (i.e. GP/OOH Service/Emergency Department).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If symptoms develop – immediately self-isolate, leave work, seek medical review, and abstain from all sexual contact. Also, should wear a well-fitted standard surgical mask whenever in a shared space with others, including household members.</li> </ul> <p>Practice proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.</p> <p>Do not donate bodily fluids or tissues, including blood and sperm.</p> <p>Individuals should avoid undertaking any travel, including international travel, until they are determined to no longer constitute a public health risk for others.</p> <p><b>Should risk assess for vaccination in line with NIAC recommendations (BN Vaccine (e.g. Imvanex ®) ideally within four days (up to a</b></p>

<sup>7</sup> Consideration should be given when undertaking Public Health Risk Assessment (PHRA) for contact tracing for airline contacts. This should include evaluating seating configurations such as 2:2, 3:3, and 3:4:3 patterns, as these can impact the inclusivity of passengers, particularly those who need to be included in contact tracing efforts.

No direct contact but within one metre of a case for at least 15 minutes without wearing appropriate PPE.

Sharing a mode of transport with case or sitting within two rows (in all directions) to mpox case on plane.<sup>7</sup>

**maximum of 14 days) post exposure.** The most current vaccine guidance can be found [here](#).

Avoid sexual or intimate contact and other activities involving skin to skin contact for 21 days from last exposure.

Avoid contact with immunocompromised people, pregnant women, and children aged under 5 years where possible for 21 days from last exposure.

Consider exclusion from work on case-by-case basis following a risk assessment for 21 days, if work involves contact with immunocompromised people, pregnant women, or children under 5 years (not limited to H&CWs). Risk assessment may consider redeployment if feasible.

Alert any H&CWs that provide medical care of the potential exposure risk.

Risk assess whether contacts who are children require exclusion from school.

Avoid attendance to specified high-risk settings like **congregate settings**<sup>6</sup> where possible:

- If this is unavoidable, consider wearing a surgical mask in these settings, and allow single room occupancy/office with dedicated bathroom; or
- For individuals who are resident in congregate settings, consider temporary

**Low**

Protected physical or droplet exposure.

No physical contact, unlikely droplet exposure.

Contacts with mpox case or environment contaminated with MPXV while wearing appropriate PPE (with no known breaches),

OR

H&CW involved in case of an mpox case not wearing appropriate PPE without direct contact and maintained a distance between one and three metres and no direct contact with contaminated objects. Community contact between one and three metres of an mpox case for at least 15 minutes,

OR

Passengers sitting between one and three metres (depending on layout of plane - but no more than three rows of index) for at least 15 minutes with an mpox case without wearing appropriate PPE.<sup>7</sup>

H&CW wearing appropriate PPE.

H&CW entering patient room without PPE and:

- Without direct contact with patient or their bodily fluids; and
- Maintaining a distance of more than one metre from patient.

Person undertaking decontamination of rooms where mpox case(s) stayed, while wearing appropriate PPE.

Sharing a mode of transport with case or sitting beyond two rows (in all directions) to mpox case on plane.<sup>7</sup>

**Passive monitoring of contacts** for signs/symptoms - provide monitoring form (see [Appendix B](#)) and instructions for contacting healthcare facility as required (i.e. GP/OOH Service/Emergency Department).

- If symptoms develop – immediately self-isolate, leave work, seek medical review, and abstain from all sexual contact.

Practice proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

Do not donate bodily fluids or tissues, including blood and sperm.

Individuals should avoid undertaking any travel, including international travel, until they are determined to no longer constitute a public health risk for others.

Contacts who are children do not require exclusion from school.

Avoid sexual or intimate contact and other activities involving skin to skin contact for 21 days from last exposure.

Avoid contact with immunocompromised people, pregnant women, and children aged under 5 years where possible for 21 days from last exposure.

	<p>Consider exclusion from work following a risk assessment for 21 days, especially if work involves contact with immunocompromised people, pregnant women, or children under 5 years (not limited to H&amp;CWs). Risk assessment around redeployment to different area may be considered.</p> <p>Alert any H&amp;CWs that provide medical care of the potential exposure.</p> <p>Avoid attendance to specified high-risk settings like <b>congregate settings</b><sup>6</sup>, where possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If this is unavoidable, consider wearing a surgical mask in these settings, and allow single room occupancy/office with dedicated bathroom; or</li> <li>• For individuals who are resident in congregate settings, consider temporary accommodation in the <b><u>National Infectious Diseases Isolation Facility</u></b>.</li> </ul>
<p>Not meeting any of the above criteria.</p> <p><b>No identifiable risks</b></p> <p>No prolonged physical or droplet exposure</p>	<p>Nil specific beyond:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practice proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.</li> </ul> <p>No restriction of activities.</p> <p>Can continue with routine activities and travel as long as asymptomatic.</p> <p>No monitoring needed - but can provide information around MPOX. But this should be risk assessed by Department of Public Health - warn and inform can be provided.</p>

## 2.5 Clade II MPVX

CLADE II MPVX			
EXPOSURE RISK	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE SCENARIOS	PUBLIC HEALTH ADVICE
<b>HIGH</b>  Unprotected direct contact or high-risk environmental contact.	Direct exposure of broken skin or mucous membranes to mpox case, their bodily fluids or potentially infectious material (including clothing or bedding) without wearing appropriate PPE.	<b>Healthcare setting</b> Bodily fluid in contact with eyes, nose, or mouth.  Penetrating sharps injury from used needle.  Person in room during aerosol-generating procedure without appropriate respiratory PPE.  Changing a patient's bedding or cleaning a contaminated room without appropriate PPE.	<b>Passive monitoring</b> if feasible for signs/symptoms (See <b>Appendix B</b> ) and instructions for contacting healthcare facility as required (i.e. GP/OOH Service/Emergency Department). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If symptoms develop – immediately self-isolate, leave work, seek medical review, and abstain from all sexual contact.</li> </ul> Practice proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.  Do not donate bodily fluids or tissues, including blood and sperm.
	Penetrating sharp injury (including cleaning or laboratory staff).	<b>Non-healthcare setting</b> Sexual or intimate contact with or without a condom.  Higher risk household contacts who have had close skin to skin contact, for example frequent touching or cuddling, or who have shared bedding, providing care, clothing or towels with the case.	Individuals should avoid undertaking any travel, including international travel, until they are determined to no longer constitute a public health risk for others.  <b>Should risk assess for vaccination in line with NIAC recommendations (BN Vaccine (e.g. Imvanex ®) ideally within four days (up to a maximum of 14 days) post exposure.</b> The most current vaccine guidance can be found <a href="#">here</a> .  Avoid sexual or intimate contact and other activities involving skin to skin contact for 21 days from last exposure.

Avoid contact with immunocompromised people, pregnant women, and children aged under 5 years where possible for 21 days from last exposure.

Consider exclusion from work on case-by-case basis following a risk assessment for 21 days, if work involves contact with immunocompromised people, pregnant women, or children under 5 years (not limited to H&CWs). Risk assessment may consider redeployment if feasible.

Contacts who are children do not require exclusion from school.

Alert any H&CWs that provide medical care of the potential exposure risk.

Avoid attendance to specified high-risk settings like **congregate settings**<sup>6</sup>, where possible:

- If this is unavoidable, consider wearing a surgical mask in these settings, and allow single room occupancy/office with dedicated bathroom; or
- For individuals who are resident in congregate settings, consider temporary accommodation in the [National Infectious Diseases Isolation Facility](#).

<p><b>Medium</b> Unprotected exposure to infectious materials</p>	<p>Intact skin-only contact with an mpox case, their body fluids or potentially infectious material or contaminated fomites</p>	<p><b>Healthcare setting</b> Clinical examination of patient before diagnosis without appropriate PPE.</p>	<p><b>Passive monitoring</b> if feasible for signs/symptoms (See <b>Appendix B</b>) and instructions for contacting healthcare facility as required (i.e. GP/OOH Service/Emergency Department).</p>
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<p>including droplet or airborne potential route.</p>	<p>(excluding household contacts, as above).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Passengers seated directly next to a case on a plane (or any other mode of transport where it is known that they have sat next to the case). Specifically, passengers within one metre (i.e. same rows/in front/behind; all within car/van) for at least 15 minutes with an mpox case without wearing appropriate PPE.<sup>7</sup><b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b></p> <p>OR</p> <p>No direct contact but within one metre of a case for at least 15 minutes without wearing appropriate PPE.</p>	<p>Entering patient's room without wearing appropriate PPE and within one metre for at least 15 minutes with the case.</p> <p>Subsequent patients in consulting room after an mpox case was seen and prior to room cleaning.</p> <p>Spillage or leakage of laboratory specimen onto intact skin.</p> <p><b>Non-healthcare setting</b> Lower risk household contact: individuals who live in the same household but do not meet the criteria of HIGH risk. Providing care for case/cared for by a case, or having skin/mucosal contact with case's unwashed bedding, and personal items</p> <p>Sharing a mode of transport with case or sitting within two rows (in all directions) to case on plane.<sup>7</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If symptoms develop – immediately self-isolate, leave work, seek medical review, and abstain from all sexual contact.</li> </ul> <p>Practice proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.</p> <p>Do not donate bodily fluids or tissues, including blood and sperm.</p> <p>Individuals should avoid undertaking any travel, including international travel, until they are determined to no longer constitute a public health risk for others.</p> <p>Contacts who are children do not require exclusion from school.</p> <p><b>Should risk assess for vaccination in line with NIAC recommendations (BN Vaccine (e.g. Imvanex ®) ideally within four days (up to a maximum of 14 days) post exposure.</b> The most current vaccine guidance can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Avoid sexual or intimate contact and other activities involving skin to skin contact for 21 days from last exposure.</p> <p>Avoid contact with immunocompromised people, pregnant women, and children aged under 5 years where possible for 21 days from last exposure.</p> <p>Consider exclusion from work following a risk assessment for 21 days, especially if work</p>
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			<p>involves contact with immunocompromised people, pregnant women, or children under 5 years (not limited to H&amp;CWs). Risk assessment around redeployment to different area may be considered.</p> <p>Alert any H&amp;CWs that provide medical care of the potential exposure.</p> <p>Avoid attendance to specified high-risk settings like <b>congregate settings</b><sup>6</sup>, where possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If this is unavoidable, consider wearing a surgical mask in these settings, and allow single room occupancy/office with dedicated bathroom; or</li> <li>• For individuals who are resident in congregate settings, consider temporary accommodation in the <a href="#"><u>National Infectious Diseases Isolation Facility</u></a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Low</b></p> <p>Protected physical or droplet exposure.</p> <p>No physical contact, unlikely droplet exposure.</p>	<p>Contact with mpox case or environment contaminated with MPXV while wearing appropriate PPE (with no known breaches),</p> <p>OR</p> <p>H&amp;CW involved in care of an mpox case not wearing appropriate PPE without direct contact and maintained a distance between one and three</p>	<p><b>Healthcare setting</b></p> <p>H&amp;CW wearing appropriate PPE.</p> <p>H&amp;CW entering patient room without PPE and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Without direct contact with patient or their bodily fluids; and</li> <li>• Maintaining more than one metre from patient.</li> </ul> <p>Person undertaking decontamination of rooms where mpox case(s) stayed, while wearing appropriate PPE.</p>	<p>Nil specific beyond:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practice proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.</li> </ul> <p>No restriction of activities.</p> <p>Can continue with routine activities and travel as long as asymptomatic.</p>

metres and no direct contact with contaminated objects.

Community contact between one and three metres of an mpox case,

OR

Passengers sitting beyond three rows from an mpox case on plane.<sup>7</sup>

**Non-healthcare setting**

Passengers sharing a mode of transport who have been seated beyond three rows, but not directly next to a case.<sup>7</sup>

## 2.6 General Principles for undertaking mpox Public Health Risk Assessment

- Transmission requires close physical proximity or interaction with patient, or the patient's intimate belongings (bedsheets, pillowcase, towels, personal toilet belongings, personal utensils).
- Risk increases with length of contact time, and degree of physical proximity.
- Infectiousness begins with onset of symptoms (or if rash is the only symptom, from 24 hours before the onset of rash), and increases with the progressive development of symptoms (coughing/sneezing, rash development with weeping/desloughing).
- The infectious period ends with final desloughing of crusted lesion scabs and the appearance of healthy skin beneath (generally 2-3 weeks but can take as long as 4 weeks).
- In healthcare settings, regarding the risk of transmission:
  - The presence of a rash increases the potential for spread - the more extensive, exudative or sloughing the rash, the greater the risk.
  - If patient has upper or lower respiratory symptoms (cough, coryza, sneeze) the greater the risk of droplet spread (most likely in those with oropharyngeal lesions/bronchial or pulmonary involvement).
  - AGPs increase the risk of airborne spread.
  - Disseminated environmental skin squames, particularly during changes of bed linen, will also increase the risk.
- Mask-wearing by patient with respiratory symptoms in presence of others, will reduce the potential for spread - even in the absence of respiratory symptoms may reduce the risk of transmission.
- Mpox contacts who have received two documented doses of vaccine (either through PrEP or PEP) no longer need to be considered contacts from fourteen days following their second vaccine dose.
- **Immediate self-isolation following the development of any symptoms is the most effective measure - after vaccination - to contain the spread of mpox.**

### **Notes for Health & Care Workers**

- Certain H&CW occupational contacts (High risk only) may, on the basis of a risk assessment, warrant isolation for 21 days from the date of their last contact, if the level of, or nature of exposure (direct contact of infected patient's tissue/fluids with

contact's mucosal surfaces etc), or where the severity of the patient's symptoms are considered to significantly increase the risk of disease acquisition.

- If a high risk HCW contact following significant exposure, is at greater likelihood of conversion, but does not require isolation, consideration should be given to risk assessing the need to limit contact with known severely immunocompromised patients, children under 5 years of age, and pregnant women.

# Appendix A

## ACTIVE MONITORING TEMPLATE EMAIL/LETTER

NAME
DATE of BIRTH
ADDRESS
EIRCODE
CONTACT NUMBER
CONTACT EMAIL
GP DETAILS  Permission provided to contact GP, if needed: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Not Asked <input type="checkbox"/>
DATE of MPOX EXPOSURE
DATE of LAST DAY of ACTIVE MONITORING

Dear **[INSERT NAME]**

You have been identified as a close contact of a case of mpox. **You have been placed under active monitoring by the Medical Officer of Health for 21 days since your contact with a confirmed case of mpox.** Active monitoring means that you should monitor yourself and how you are feeling, and if you develop any symptoms, you should immediately self-isolate, leave work, seek medical review (i.e. GP, Out of Hours Services, Emergency Room, Sexual Health Services) and abstain from all sexual contact.

Being under active monitoring can feel intrusive. However, to ensure you do not pass any infection on to others, it is extremely important that you:

- Follow the directions for active monitoring, for 21 days.
- Ensure you wash your hands frequently and practice respiratory etiquette, and information can be found [here](#).
- Abstain from sexual contact for the period of your monitoring.

You should avoid undertaking any travel, including international travel, until you are determined to no longer constitute a public health risk for others.

You can attend work/school as usual and undertake normal social activities. However, it is important that for the 21 days following your contact with the case, you monitor yourself for the early symptoms of mpox. If you work/attend school that involves, contact with immunocompromised people, pregnant women, or children under 5 years (not limited to H&CWs). Risk assessment around redeployment to different area may be considered, so you might need to link with Line Manager, if this is required.

**Please use this form to record your temperature twice daily (when you get up in the morning and during the evening before you go to bed) using a digital thermometer, and to record any symptoms you develop during this period.** You will receive a daily call from your regional Department of Public Health to ascertain how your active monitoring is progressing.

If you feel unwell at any time, please take your temperature. Make sure to take your temperature in your mouth (and not under your arm). Follow the manufacturer's instructions on use. Leave at least 20 minutes between taking exercise or consuming warm or cold drinks or food and checking your temperature. If you feel unwell in any way, please check your temperature. **If you develop symptoms, you should exclude yourself from work, self-isolate and call your GP/health provider immediately. You should also abstain from any sexual contact. Whenever you call your GP/health provider make sure to tell them you are a mpox contact.**

If you develop a fever or any of the symptoms below, you should call your GP/health provider. If you are feeling very unwell then you should seek medical attention.

**In case of an emergency call 112/999 and advise them that you have had contact with a case of mpox.**

The symptoms of mpox are:

- Rash that may be painful or itchy (may look like pimples or blisters to start);
- Fever (temperature at or above 38.5°C);
- Chills;
- Swollen lymph nodes;
- Exhaustion;
- Muscle aches and backache; and
- Headache.

People may experience all or only a few symptoms. Others only experience a rash.

### Images of mpox lesions



You can visit these websites for fact-based information about mpox:

- HSE website: <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/mpox/>
- HPSC website: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/zoonotic/monkeypox/>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact you regional Department of Public Health.

Yours sincerely,

**[NAME, TITLE, and CONTACT INFORMATION]**

**Daily Log for Contact** (to be completed by Department of Public Health)

<b>NAME</b>
<b>DATE of BIRTH</b>
<b>ADDRESS</b>
<b>EIRCODE</b>
<b>CONTACT NUMBER</b>
<b>CONTACT EMAIL</b>
<b>GP DETAILS</b>  <p style="text-align: right;">Permission provided to contact GP, if needed:          YES <input type="checkbox"/>          NO <input type="checkbox"/>          Not Asked <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<b>DATE of MPOX EXPOSURE</b>
<b>DATE of LAST DAY of ACTIVE MONITORING</b>

Day	Date dd/mm/yyyy	AM – Temperature	PM – Temperature	Other Symptoms <sup>8</sup> (Y/N) (Describe)
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				

<sup>8</sup> If you develop any symptoms, you should immediately self-isolate, leave work, seek medical review (i.e. GP, Out of Hours Services, Emergency Room, Sexual Health Services) and abstain from all sexual contact.



## Appendix B

### PASSIVE MONITORING TEMPLATE EMAIL/LETTER

NAME
DATE of BIRTH
ADDRESS
EIRCODE
CONTACT NUMBER
CONTACT EMAIL
GP DETAILS  <p style="text-align: right;">Permission provided to contact GP, if needed: YES <input type="checkbox"/>                      NO <input type="checkbox"/>                      Not Asked <input type="checkbox"/></p>
DATE of MPOX EXPOSURE
DATE of LAST DAY of ACTIVE MONITORING

Dear **[INSERT NAME]**

You have been identified as a close contact of a case of mpox. **You have been placed under passive monitoring by the Medical Officer of Health for 21 days since your contact with a confirmed case of mpox.** Passive monitoring means that you should monitor yourself and how you are feeling, and if you develop any symptoms, you should immediately self-isolate, leave work, seek medical review (i.e. GP, Out of Hours Services, Emergency Room, Sexual Health Services) and abstain from all sexual contact.

Being under passive monitoring can feel intrusive. However, to ensure you do not pass any infection on to others, it is extremely important that you:

- Follow the directions for passive monitoring, for 21 days.
- Ensure you wash your hands frequently and practice respiratory etiquette, and information can be found here.
- Abstain from sexual contact for the period of your monitoring.

You should avoid undertaking any travel, including international travel, until they are determined to no longer constitute a public health risk for others.

You can attend work/school as usual and undertake normal social activities. However, it is important that for the 21 days following your contact with the case, you monitor yourself for the early symptoms of mpox. If you work/attend school that involves, contact with immunocompromised people, pregnant women, or children under 5 years (not limited to H&CWs). Risk assessment around redeployment to different area may be considered, so you might need to link with Line Manager, if this is required.

**Please use this form to record your temperature twice daily (when you get up in the morning and during the evening before you go to bed) using a digital thermometer, and**

**to record any symptoms you develop during this period.** You can return your completed form to your regional Department of Public Health.

If you feel unwell at any time, please take your temperature. Make sure to take your temperature in your mouth (and not under your arm). Follow the manufacturer's instructions on use. Leave at least 20 minutes between taking exercise or consuming warm or cold drinks or food and checking your temperature. If you feel unwell in any way, please check your temperature. **If you develop symptoms, you should exclude yourself from work, self-isolate and call your GP/health provider immediately. You should also abstain from any sexual contact. Whenever you call your GP/health provider make sure to tell them you are a mpox contact.**

If you develop a fever or any of the symptoms below, you should call your GP/health provider. If you are feeling very unwell then you should seek medical attention.

**In case of an emergency call 112/999 and advise them that you have had contact with a case of mpox.**

The symptoms of mpox are:

- Rash that may be painful or itchy (may look like pimples or blisters to start);
- Fever (temperature at or above 38.5°C);
- Chills;
- Swollen lymph nodes;
- Exhaustion;
- Muscle aches and backache; and
- Headache.

People may experience all or only a few symptoms. Others only experience a rash.

### **Images of mpox lesions**



You can visit these websites for fact-based information about mpox:

- HSE website: <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/mpox/>
- HPSC website: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/zoonotic/monkeypox/>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact you regional Department of Public Health.

Yours sincerely,

**[NAME, TITLE, and CONTACT INFORMATION]**

**Daily Log for Contact** (to be completed by contact and returned to regional Department of Public Health)

Day	Date dd/mm/yyyy	AM – Temperature	PM – Temperature	Other Symptoms <sup>9</sup> (Y/N) (Describe)
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				

<sup>9</sup> If you develop any symptoms, you should immediately self-isolate, leave work, seek medical review (i.e. GP, Out of Hours Services, Emergency Room, Sexual Health Services) and abstain from all sexual contact.

## Appendix C

### PUBLIC HEALTH MONITORING TEMPLATE

#### 1. Summary Contact Details

CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DoB: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT ID:  HSE-Area:  County:   
RHA:

Healthcare Worker: Y  N  Contact Phone:

Date case identified: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Type of Monitoring:	Exposure Risk:
Passive: <input type="checkbox"/>	High Risk: <input type="checkbox"/>
Active: <input type="checkbox"/>	Medium Risk: <input type="checkbox"/>
	Low Risk: <input type="checkbox"/>

Date/Time Monitoring began: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ \_\_\_:\_\_\_

Vaccinated: Y  N  Vaccine Brand: \_\_\_\_\_

Route: subcutaneous  intradermal

Date vaccinated: Dose 1 \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Dose 2: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

## 2. Summary Case Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CASE CIDR ID:

DoB: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_ Country of Exposure: \_\_\_\_\_

Current location: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Full Contact Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ RHA: \_\_\_\_\_ Eircode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ DoB: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_ Country of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: Male  Female  Trans male  Trans female  Non-binary  Unk

HCW: Y  N  DOB: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

GP Name: \_\_\_\_\_ GP Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Seen by GP? Y  N  Unk  Date/Time: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Significant past medical history: \_\_\_\_\_

Pregnant: Y  N  Unk  Immunocompromised: Y  N

Did they previously receive the smallpox vaccine? Y  N

If yes, year of vaccination: \_\_\_\_\_

Smallpox vaccination (scar): Y  N  Unk

Has the contact been referred for vaccination?

Referred for vaccination  Declined  Already vaccinated  Not offered – outside 14-day window  Not offered as per risk matrix  Not offered – other

If not, why? \_\_\_\_\_

Vaccinated with Imvanex? Y  N  Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Batch No: \_\_\_\_\_

(If no, give reason) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Info for Vaccine Referral Form

PPSN: \_\_\_\_\_

Next of kin name: \_\_\_\_\_

Next of kin contact number (mobile): \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if referral is recommending a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose: Y  N  Unk

Referrer name: \_\_\_\_\_

Referrer contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

GP Practice Name: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Nature of Contact:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Household: Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Sexual: Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Healthcare: Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Workplace (non-HC) : Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Community: Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Other: Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul> <i>(If Other, please specify</i>	<b>Type of Contact:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indirect: <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Direct: <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul> <p>For episodes of Direct Contact, specify extent/nature of contact/sexual/<a href="#">PPE breach</a>:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<b>Date of last Contact:</b> ___/___/___ <b>Ongoing exposure:</b> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Exposure Risk:</b> High: <input type="checkbox"/> Medium: <input type="checkbox"/> Low: <input type="checkbox"/>	

### 5. Daily Symptom Check<sup>10</sup>

Is the case currently symptomatic: Y  N

SYMPTOMS	RESPONSE	DATE & TIME of ONSET
<b>Fever</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Chills</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Headache</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Exhaustion</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Swollen glands</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Cough/sore throat</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Backache</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Muscle ache</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Rash</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Macules</li> <li>• Papules</li> <li>• Vesicles</li> <li>• Pustules</li> <li>• Umbilicated</li> <li>• Scabs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>	

<sup>10</sup> These are for use if the contact develops symptoms and is for assessment as a probable case – complete only if symptoms develop. Check any symptoms against the [Case Definition](#).



**Anogenital/orolabial lesions**

Yes  No  Unknown

- Describe lesions

## 6. Escalation

Date & Time of escalation: \_\_\_\_\_

Basis for escalation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Referred to: \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Admitted: YES  NO  UNKNOWN

Name of Facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Time of admission: \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Exit from Monitoring

Date & Time of exiting: \_\_\_\_\_