

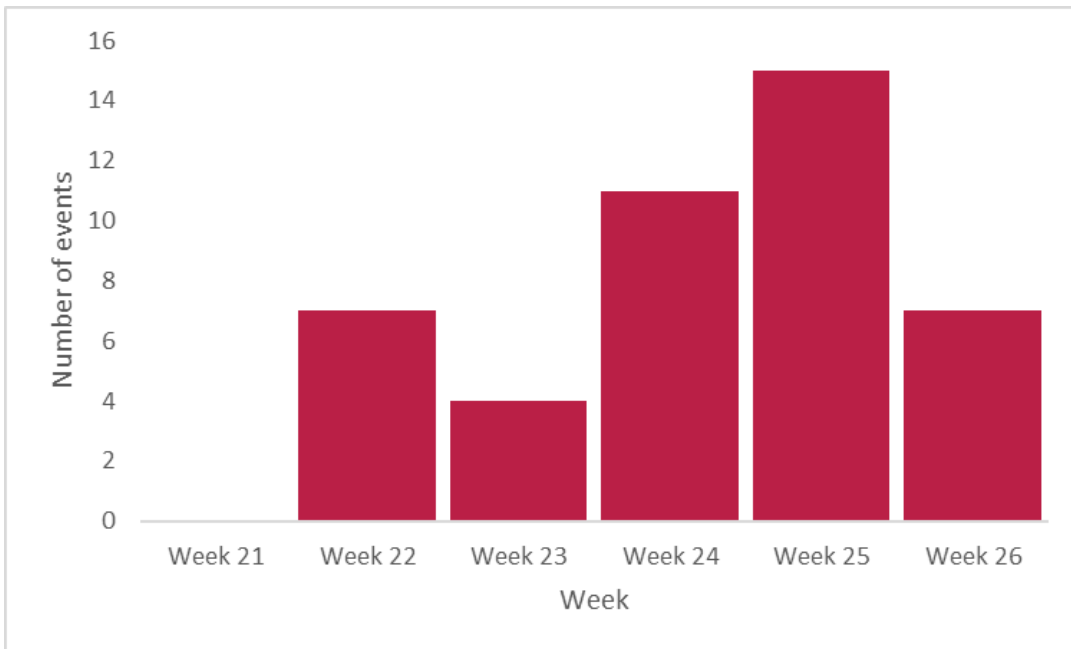


## Weekly report on the epidemiology of Human Monkeypox in Ireland, Week 26 2022

**Please note:** The period covered by this report has changed. It now reports on cases notified on the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) up to the end of the preceding epidemiological week. The epidemiological weeks in this report, run from Sunday to Saturday. Please refer to the [HPSC website](#) for a complete list of epidemiological weeks.

### Key Points

- An international outbreak of Monkeypox infection has been ongoing since 16-05-2022. Cases may have been occurring prior to this date but were not detected. Information on the international epidemiological situation is available [here](#).
- To enable the monitoring of cases in Ireland and the Public Health response, Monkeypox infection was made a [notifiable infection](#) on the 27-05-2022.
- This report includes [confirmed cases](#) of Monkeypox infection notified on the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting system for Ireland (CIDR) up to the end of the preceding [epidemiological week](#).
- As of week 26 2022 (up to midnight on the 02-07-2022), 44 [confirmed cases](#) of Monkeypox infection have been notified on CIDR.
- In week 26 2022, seven confirmed cases were notified. This is a decrease compared to week 25 when 15 cases were notified. The reason for the decrease in week 26 is not clear. The trend will continue to be closely monitored.
- Among all 44 cases notified to date, all are male, and have a median age of 37 years (range 19 - 65 years).
- Sexual orientation is known for 40 cases, all of whom self-identify as gay, bisexual or other men who have sex with men (gbMSM).
- Seven cases have been hospitalised. Two cases were admitted for clinical care related to Monkeypox infection, one admitted for isolation purposes only, and information on the reason for admission for the other four is still awaited.
- The epidemiological picture to date in Ireland is similar to that seen in other countries where cases are primarily among gbMSM.
- Further information on Monkeypox infection including the symptoms, and how to reduce the risk are available [here](#).



**Figure 1:** Number of confirmed cases of Monkeypox infection by week of notification reported on CIDR in Ireland up to midnight 02-07-2022.

**Table 2.** Summary characteristics of confirmed cases of Monkeypox infection, based on cases reported up to midnight 02-07-2022

		Number of events	% of events
<b>Gender</b>	Male	44	100.0
	Female	0	0.0
<b>Age(years)</b>	Mean age (years)	38	
	Median age (years)	37	
	Age range (years)	19 - 65	
<b>Age groups(years)</b>	0-18	0	0.0
	19-24	1	2.3
	25-34	18	40.9
	35-44	16	36.4
	45-54	5	11.4
	55-64	3	6.8
	65+	1	2.3
	<b>Sexual orientation</b>	gbMSM	40
	Other	0	0.0
	Not known	4	9.1

## Technical Notes

**1. Data Source:** Data for this report are based on cases notified on the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) up to midnight 02-07-2022. Data were extracted from CIDR system on 05-07-2022. Some data have been supplemented by information provided by Departments of Public Health. Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.

**2. Case definitions:** The current case definition for Monkeypox infection is available [here](#).

**3. Epidemiological week:** For the purposes of epidemiology the 365 days of the year are split into 52 or 53 epidemiological weeks (epi weeks). This is to standardize time for epidemiological surveillance. This is important to allow for comparison of events that occurred in a given year, or a period of a year, with previous years. As these are internationally agreed they also facilitate comparison between countries. Epi weeks (epidemiological weeks) start on a Sunday and end on a Saturday. The first epidemiological week of the year ends on the first Saturday of January, as long as it falls at least four days into the month, even if it means that this first week starts in December. A breakdown of epidemiological weeks is available [here](#).

**4. Epidemiological date (Epi date):** Epidemiological date is based on the earliest of dates available on the case and taken from date of onset of symptoms, date of diagnosis, laboratory specimen collection date, laboratory received date, laboratory reported date or event creation date/notification date on CIDR. By using this date rather than event creation/ notification date, adjusts for any delays in testing/notification.

## Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are extended to all those who are participating in the collection of data used in this report. This includes notifying clinicians, laboratory staff, public health doctors, nurses, surveillance scientists, microbiologists and administrative staff.