What is it?

- Virus similar to smallpox, predominantly in Central and West Africa.
- Increasing numbers in UK
- Spread is airborne/ direct contact with an infected human/ animal or contaminated material.

Case definition

- Link to confirmed or probable case in the 21 days prior to symptom onset OR travel to west or central Africa in 21 days before symptom onset OR gay/ bisexual man who has sex with men
- Patient has an unexplained vesicular pustular rash on any part of their body
- Fever >38.5 degrees C
- Intense headaches
- Myalgia/arthritis/ back pain/lymphadenopathy
- A rash appears within 1-5 days, often starting on face or genitals, spreading to palms and soles of feet.
- Diagnosis is difficult, often confused with chicken pox
- Treatment is supportive, the disease is usually self limiting

What do I need to do in ED?

- Establish a process to screen for symptoms and risk factors when booking in/ triage
- PPE—FFP3, eye protection, full length gown for suspected cases
- Exclude pregnant staff/ clinically vulnerable staff from contact with patient
- Isolation room for suspected cases, negative or neutral pressure ventilation if possible
- Liaise with local team re testing processes
- All patients that require testing need discussion with the Imported Fever Service—08447788990
- Review cleaning and disposal of waste process

For Safety Alerts and RCEM issued Safety Flashes see:
https://rcem.ac.uk/safety-3/