



Mpox Outbreak



a) early vesicle,
3mm diameter



b) small pustule,
2mm diameter



c) umbilicated pustule,
3-4mm diameter



d) ulcerated lesion,
5mm diameter



e) crusting of a mature
lesion



f) partially removed
scab

There is an upsurge of mpox cases in the DRC and a growing number of African countries. The current variant is a 'High Consequence Infectious Disease' (HCID).

We need to be vigilant, as cases may occur in the UK.

[Mpox clade 1: what you need to know – UK Health Security Agency \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2024/08/27/mpox-clade-1-what-you-need-to-know)

Clinical features

- **Fever >38.5°C**
- **Headache, Arthralgia, Myalgia, Back pain, Lethargy**, often painful **Lymphadenopathy**.
- **A rash** appears within 1-5 days of initial fever, often starting with facial, ano-genital or oral lesions, it may spread including to palms and soles of feet.
- Mpox is usually self limiting but can be severe, especially in children, pregnancy and immune suppressed.

Ask [Mpox \(monkeypox\): case definitions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mpox-monkeypox-case-definitions) [Operational mpox \(monkeypox\) HCID case definition - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/operational-mpox-monkeypox-hcid-case-definition)

- Any link to confirmed or probable case in the 21 days prior to symptom onset (incubation 5-21 days).
- Travel to east, west or central Africa in 21 days before symptom onset .
- Has had one or more new sexual partners in the 21 days before symptom onset.

Diagnosis is by PCR test for the monkeypox virus (MPXV). Liaise with your local team re testing processes.

All patients that require testing need discussion with the Imported Fever Service—08447788990

Treatment is supportive.

Refer eligible people for vaccination. [Mpox - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

What do I need to do in ED?

- **Screen**—Establish a process to screen for travel history, contact history and symptoms when booking in/ triage
- **Isolate** suspected cases in negative or neutral pressure ventilation room,
- **Wear full PPE**—FFP3, eye protection, full length gown, gloves [NHS England » Addendum on high consequence infectious disease \(HCID\) personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](https://www.nhs.uk/news/2022/07/22-mpox-protective-equipment) Offer patient surgical face mask
- **Exclude** pregnant staff/ clinically vulnerable staff from contact with patient
- **Clean**—follow local IPC cleaning and waste disposal processes

For Safety Alerts and RCEM issued Safety Flashes see:

<https://rcem.ac.uk/safety-3/>