

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practices for Monkeypox

Key Priorities (with respect to IPC):

- Protect health care workers and prevent transmission in health care settings and home management of the person with MPX

Human-to-human transmission

- Direct physical contact with skin or mucus membranes that may have lesions
 - Face-to-face, skin-to-skin, mouth-to-mouth, mouth-to skin, including during sex
- Direct and indirect contact with surfaces/items contaminated with drainage from lesions
- Respiratory droplets

Standard Precautions + Contact Precautions + Droplet Precautions (Health Care Setting)

- Segregation and triage of suspected cases
- Private room or cohort with like cases (suspect with suspect, confirmed with confirmed)
- Hand hygiene (WHO 5 Moments of Hand Hygiene)
- PPE: Gowns, gloves, **respirator mask** (N95, FFP2 or equivalent), eye protection (Face shield or goggles), dedicated footwear (shoe covers not recommended)
- Environmental cleaning and disinfection; cleaning and disinfection of re-usable patient care equipment
- Appropriate linen and waste management (including cubicle curtains)
- Duration of precautions: until lesions have healed, scabs have separated, and a new layer of skin has formed

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) in the Home Care Setting

- Assessment of the home situation must be conducted prior to isolation at home to determine if the infection prevention and control (IPC) conditions can be fulfilled in the home setting.
 - The person with MPX should stay in a dedicated, well-ventilated room (e.g. with windows that can be opened frequently) separate from others in the household.
 - Items such as eating utensils, linens, towels, electronic devices or beds should be dedicated to the person with MPX. Avoid sharing personal items.
 - Appropriate management of contaminated linen
 - Appropriate management of infectious waste
- The patient with MPX should wear a well-fitting medical mask and cover lesions when in close proximity of others, and when moving outside of the designated isolation area (e.g. to use the toilet).
 - If the designated person that is facilitating self-care needs to enter the isolation area, they should maintain a distance of at least 1 m from patient.
 - When distance cannot be maintained, the designated person is to wear a well-fitting medical mask and disposable gloves.
 - They should clean their hands with either soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, before and after contact with the patient or surrounding environment and
 - Perform hand hygiene before putting on and after removing their gloves.
 - **Recommended duration of precautions:** until lesions have healed, scabs have separated, **and a new layer of skin has formed**

IPC in the home management of the person with MPX

Key points

- Not stated but requires provision of IPC education for person with MPX and the designated person
- Provision of adequate supplies of PPE (gloves and medical masks) for person with MPX and designated person
 - Follow-up to ensure continued supply for duration of isolation
- Provision of psychosocial care through a designated provider
- Establish method of remote monitoring
 - Infrastructure available in the home?

IPC-related LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE FIELD

- **Most patients are being cared for in the home**
- **Assessment of the ability of the person with MPX and the designated person to maintain isolation and IPC practices in a home setting conducive to disease prevention is critical**

In the health care setting

- **the ability of the staff to access AND safely use PPE,**
 - **following appropriate infection control procedures in potentially high-risk situations is essential.**
- **Facilities may need to provide Immediate just-in-time refresher training for staff.**
 - **Pop-up trainings**
- **the health facility must be able to make resources available**
 - **to support contact tracing**
 - **to perform exposure investigations,**
 - **to make rapid systems changes to support infection prevention and control, among other activities.**
- **Linens and textiles need to include cubicle curtains if persons with MPX are cohorted and spatial separation is maintained by these items**