



ALERT FOR CLINICIANS

Testing and notification of monkeypox cases

KEY POINTS

- **Be alert for monkeypox cases. Monkeypox cases have increased significantly internationally, and New South Wales has reported likely local transmission.**
- **Test all suspected cases that meet clinical and epidemiological criteria for monkeypox while using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).**
- **Monkeypox is a notifiable condition. Urgently report suspected and confirmed cases to Public Health. Notifying Public Health of suspected cases may expedite results.**

Test all suspected cases for monkeypox virus

- Suspected cases are those with:
 - **A clinically compatible illness with rash** on any part of the body (with or without lymphadenopathy, fever, headache, myalgia, arthralgia or back pain) **AND**
 - **Epidemiological evidence** in the 5-21 days before symptom onset:
 - an epidemiological link to a confirmed or probable case, OR
 - overseas travel, OR
 - sexual contact and/or other physical intimate contact with a gay, bisexual or other man who has sex with men.
- Patients tested for monkeypox must be advised to isolate until a result is received.
- In addition to monkeypox PCR testing, consider testing for other potential causes of rash or skin lesions including syphilis, herpes simplex virus, measles, molluscum contagiosum and varicella zoster virus.

Specimen collection

- Monkeypox is diagnosed by PCR testing on a sterile dry viral swab taken from one or more derroofed vesicles or ulcers, vigorously rubbing the base of the lesion, or a skin biopsy. Nasopharyngeal swabs are also suitable and should be collected. Virus transport medium is not required as it may dilute the sample and risks leakage. Double bag the specimen.
- Appropriate PPE should be worn while collecting samples, including a surgical mask, gloves, disposable fluid resistant gown and eye protection (face shield or goggles).
- Clean and disinfect surfaces with a viricidal agent after the patient has left the room.

Notification of cases

- You must notify suspected and confirmed cases of monkeypox to your local public health unit or to the on-call Public Health Physician after hours (see contact details below). Public health can assist in tracking the sample and facilitating an expedited result.

NOTIFY URGENTLY: Call your local public health unit and speak to the Public Health Physician.

Metropolitan Perth 9222 8588 or 1300 623292	Kimberley 9194 1630	South West 9781 2359
Goldfields 9080 8200	Midwest 9956 1985	Wheatbelt 9690 1720
Great Southern 9842 7500	Pilbara 9174 1660	After hours (on-call) 9328 0553

National monkeypox resources are available at:

[Monkeypox \(MPX\) resources | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.](#)

Dr Paul Armstrong

DIRECTOR, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTORATE