

As we move further into 2024, Cuyahoga County is experiencing a resurgence of mpox (formally known as monkeypox). Healthcare providers should continue testing for mpox when appropriate. Mpox should be in the differential diagnosis if a person presents with any of the following symptoms:

- Rash
- Fever
- Chills
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Exhaustion
- Muscle aches and backache
- Headache
- Respiratory symptoms (i.e., sore throat, nasal congestion or cough)

Mpox should not be ruled out solely because a patient has another diagnosis or a sexually transmitted infection (STI). Persons with Mpox can have co-infections, so testing for mpox is recommended when testing for HIV/STIs. In addition to performing lesion swabs when a rash or sore throat is present, a syndromic approach can include testing for varicella, herpes simplex virus (HSV), syphilis, and HIV, as mpox can present with non-specific symptoms and co-infections are possible.

Risk factors:

- Close intimate contact with someone who has a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of mpox diagnosis
- Contact with materials exposed to lesion fluid, such as bedding, towels, and clothing

Currently, data suggest that gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men account for the majority of cases in the ongoing mpox outbreak. However, anyone who has been in close, personal contact with someone who has mpox is at risk, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

It is advised that the STOMP trial for Tecovirimat be offered whenever the following criteria are met:

- Laboratory-confirmed or presumptive mpox infection
- Mpox illness of less than 14 days' duration
- At least one active (not yet scabbed) skin lesion, mouth lesion, or proctitis (inflammation of the rectal lining) with or without visible ulcers

If you suspect mpox ask the patient - Within the last 21 days, have you:

- Had close or intimate contact with someone with a similar rash or confirmed mpox infection?
- Had close or intimate contact with someone in a social network experiencing mpox infection?

For more information on the STOMP trial, please contact Pasternak.julie@clevelandactu.org or by phone (216)844-4444.

Please contact the Cuyahoga County Board of Health of any suspected case at 216-201-2080/disease@ccbh.net.