



Dear Colleague,

RE: RE-EMERGENCE OF MPOX IN AUSTRALIA

The Communicable Disease Control Directorate (CDCD) is advising health care providers in Western Australia to be alert for possible cases of mpox (formerly known as monkeypox).

Mpox has re-emerged in Australia, with approximately 100 cases notified since April 2024, mainly in Victoria. Most cases have been males aged 25 to 44 years who are gay, bisexual or have sex with men. Unlike the 2022 outbreak which was strongly associated with overseas travel, most cases in the current outbreak acquired their infection in Australia. Refer to the [National Communicable Disease Surveillance Dashboard](#) for further details.

Consider testing for mpox (as well as other sexually transmitted infections) when a patient presents with a genital lesion or proctitis, particularly among those with risk factors such as men who have sex with men or those who have had sexual or intimate contact when travelling to outbreak areas.

Ensure suspected cases with clinical **and** epidemiological evidence are notified **urgently** to your local [Public Health Unit](#) (or the on-call Public Health Physician on 08 9328 0553 if after hours).

Mpox vaccination

Health care providers are requested to use recall systems to identify at risk patients that are eligible for the mpox vaccination. Vaccination is a primary strategy in the prevention of mpox cases and outbreaks. Mpox infection can still occur following vaccination, however, vaccination reduces risk of transmission and disease severity.

For information on vaccine eligibility and the clinical management of mpox please visit www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/J_M/Monkeypox.

If your clinic has not previously administered Jynneos® vaccines to clients before but would like to, please contact the CDCD Immunisation Program at vaccineorders@health.wa.gov.au. The CDCD will provide the WA Health *Guidelines for the use of Jynneos® vaccine* to clinics administering the vaccine and then enable your clinic to order the mpox vaccine as described below.

Ordering mpox (JYNNEOS®) vaccines

The mpox vaccine, Jynneos®, can now be ordered via www.onelinkonline.net. Find Jynneos® at the bottom of the template and order the number of doses that you need. WA has sufficient supply. Please visit https://www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/U_Z/Vaccine-ordering for more information on vaccine ordering.

Please note that once the Jynneos® vaccine doses are thawed at the warehouse, they will expire in six months. Please order what your clinic needs but be aware that the doses that you are supplied may expire after 5-6 months. Expired doses should **not** be used.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) is also currently reviewing advice and recommendations about mpox booster doses. The CDCD will provide further information to Jynneos® providers when this advice becomes available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Effler', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr Paul Effler
A/DIRECTOR
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTORATE
08 July 2024