

Mpox IPC advice for healthcare settings

**Mpox (previously known as
Monkeypox): Management of
possible, probable, and confirmed
cases**

**Version 1.8
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Disclaimer: When an organisation, for example a health and care setting, uses products or adopts practices that differ from those stated in the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual, that individual organisation is responsible for ensuring safe systems of work including the completion of a risk assessment approved through local governance procedures.

This Guidance has been developed as part of an emergency response to the ongoing mpox situation and therefore does not follow normal NIPCM methodology and process.

Version history

Version	Date	Summary of changes
V1.0	01/06/2022	First publication
V1.1	06/06/2022	Greater clarity on symptomology associated with PPE use – section 2.2 Clarity on cleaning and PPE requirements – section 2.3 Inclusion of PPE requirements for vaccinators when vaccinating contacts who do not meet possible/probable/confirmed case definition – section 2.7
V1.2	08/07/2022	Updated to reflect changes to HCID categorisation of MPX outbreak clade. Changes throughout the document to refer to MPX outbreak clade. Updated to include Department of Transport Multilateral Agreement M347 on the re-categorisation of waste for MPX outbreak clade to Category B.
V1.3	18/08/2022	Update to reflect agreed name changes to Monkeypox variants with current outbreak variant identified as Monkeypox (Clade IIb)
V1.4	26/01/2023	Update to reflect UKHSA derogation from HCID for MPXV (organism that causes mpox) Change of name from Monkeypox to mpox.
V1.5	29/06/2023	Review of extant guidance following update to UKHSA IPC guidance. No changes to ARHAI Scotland guidance, condensed general information and updated electronic links to UKHSA guidance as appropriate.
V1.6	15/08/2024	Updated in response to the outbreak of Clade I mpox in the African Region, declared a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organization: Update to high consequence infectious disease case definition and addition of HCID PPE table.
V1.7	02/09/2024	Updated to include summary table of IPC management and additional distinction of management between HCID and non-HCID Mpox Clades.

Version	Date	Summary of changes
V1.8	06/09/2024	<p>Section 2.3 – Decontamination – Updated to reflect PPE requirements during decontamination.</p> <p>Section 2.5 – Linen Management - Updated to reflect UK 4 Nations consensus to manage used linen for confirmed Clade I HCID cases as Category B waste.</p>

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1. General information

General information on mpox including case definitions, clinical pathways and contact tracing can be found in the [PHS guidance: Mpox guidance for health protection teams](#).

This document outlines the infection prevention and control advice for healthcare workers who may be involved in the care of possible, probable or confirmed cases of mpox. The guidance is based on the published [Mpox Principles for control of non-HCID mpox in the UK: 4 nations consensus statement](#) from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and associated [UKHSA Mpox guidance collection](#). The guidance should be read in conjunction with the [NIPCM](#) and links to the appropriate sections of the NIPCM will be provided within this guidance.

There are two known clades of mpox virus (MPXV): Clade I and Clade II. Transmission of mpox to humans can be due to zoonotic transmission or person-to-person spread.

Clade I MPXV has never been identified in the UK and the overall risk of Clade I MPXV to the UK population is currently considered low. However, given the ongoing outbreaks, it is important to remain alert to cases that have a link to specified countries or with an unusual presentation compared to Clade II mpox cases, which have been seen in the UK since 2022.

Clade I MPXV remains a [high consequence infectious disease \(HCID\)](#) in the UK. Infection with Clade I MPVX has been reported to cause more severe mpox disease with a higher case fatality rate. Between 25 July and 5 August 2024, confirmed Clade I MPXV cases have been reported from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda for the first time, which has expanded the geographical footprint of Clade I MPXV in the African Region.

2. Patient management

The operational case definition has been updated by UKHSA following the recent changes in mpox epidemiology.

The following cases should be managed as HCID cases:

- Confirmed mpox case where Clade I has been confirmed

or

- Confirmed or clinically suspected mpox cases but clade not yet known and:
 - there is a travel history to the DRC or specified countries where there may be a risk of Clade I exposure, or a link to a suspected case from those countries ([as per UKHSA Mpox guidance](#)), within 21 days of symptom onset and/or
 - there is an epidemiological link to a case of Clade I mpox within 21 days of symptom onset and/or

The countries identified on this list are those where Clade I cases have been reported, as well as countries bordering those with ongoing Clade I transmission. They include the DRC, Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Cameroon, Gabon, Angola, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia. This case definition and country list is available on the [UKHSA mpox pages](#) and should be checked for any updates to the countries included.

The following cases do **not** require HCID precautions:

- confirmed as Clade II MPXV

or

- confirmed or clinically suspected mpox but clade not known, **and** all of the following conditions apply:
 - there is no history of travel to the DRC or specified surrounding countries within 21 days of symptom onset
- there is no link to a suspected case from the DRC or specified surrounding countries within 21 days of symptom onset

2.1 Patient placement

In line with the [hierarchy of controls](#), efforts should be made to perform telephone triage or assessment to help establish symptoms present and risk associated with potential mpox in advance of any face-to-face contact where possible.

If mpox infection is suspected from initial case investigation, the local Infection Prevention and Control team must be contacted, and the patient should immediately be isolated in a negative-pressure single room where available, or a single neutral pressure room with dedicated medical and patient care equipment. Positive pressure single rooms must **not** be used. Where there are minimal numbers of negatively pressurised rooms, these should be prioritised for suspected or confirmed cases. Suspected or confirmed Clade I mpox cases must be managed as an HCID requiring transmission-based precautions and HCID personal protective equipment (PPE) (see [Table 1](#) below).

Inpatients are not required to wear a Fluid Resistant Surgical Mask (FRSM) while in a single or isolation room. However, patients with possible, probable or confirmed mpox moving between care areas should be provided with a FRSM to wear - where this can be tolerated and does not compromise their clinical care, for example when receiving oxygen therapy.

2.2 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Use PPE to prevent exposure to blood and or body fluids and to prevent direct contact with the patient.

PPE must establish a full barrier against contact with contaminated surfaces, splash, spray, bulk fluids and aerosol particles.

For Clade I HCID mpox PPE, donning and doffing guidance should be followed as per the [TURAS video](#).

Donning and doffing step-by-step instructions for non-HCID PPE can be found in [Appendix 6](#) of the NIPCM.

Table 1: PPE requirements for HCID (suspected or confirmed Clade 1 MPXV)

PPE needed	PPE required for HCID
To protect body area including head and neck	The HCW should change into scrubs. Disposable fluid repellent coverall (with hood) plus high-grade disposable plastic apron over the coverall.
To protect feet	Wellington style boots and disposable overboots to enter room
To protect face, including mucous membranes of the eyes, mouth and respiratory tract	FFP3 respirator and compatible full length visor/face shield to enter room
To protect hands	Disposable surgical gloves x2 (double gloving)

Note: The PPE outlined above is consistent with that described in VHF guidance and does not represent a change in the existing Scottish ensemble.

Table 2: Minimum PPE requirements for possible, probable, and confirmed non-HCID mpox (Clade II MPXV)

Definition categories	Minimum PPE required
Where symptoms are mild (this may include a localised rash) and there is no evidence of respiratory symptoms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloves – single pair. Ensure hand hygiene is performed appropriately prior to and after removal of gloves • Fluid Resistant Surgical Facemask (FRSM) • Apron
Possible, Probable and Confirmed – Where symptomology includes respiratory symptoms, widespread rash AND/OR clinically deteriorating as a direct result of mpox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloves – single pair. Ensure hand hygiene is performed appropriately prior to and after removal of gloves. • FFP3 respirator¹ • Fluid resistant gown/coveralls • Eye/face protection

Definition categories	Minimum PPE required
<p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <p>prolonged close contact with a patient and their environment for example an overnight inpatient admission stay</p>	

- ¹ A full face visor is required in addition to a FFP3 respirator where the respirator is not fluid resistant. HCWs must be fit tested prior to donning a respirator and perform a fit check each time it is donned.

ARHAI Scotland recognise that some Infectious Disease Units will have established processes and procedures for HCID PPE which will be clearly defined as 'standard practice' for that area, which may include the application of a high-level unified ensemble for all HCIDs. Should they choose to adopt these to prevent confusion they may do so.

2.3 Decontamination

Staff cleaning the room should wear PPE in line with [section 2.2](#) whilst the patient is still present. Staff responsible for decontamination of healthcare environments where clinically suspected or confirmed mpox cases are managed must be trained in the correct use of all products and the necessary PPE.

Equipment in the room where a possible, probable or confirmed case is being managed should be kept to a minimum. Single patient use items such as B/P cuff, single use wash bowl, thermometers are recommended. Reusable patient care equipment should be dedicated to the patient as far as practicable. The mpox virus will be destroyed by hospital detergents and disinfectants.

Decontamination of reusable patient care equipment after use on all possible, probable or confirmed case should be in line with [Appendix 7](#) of the NIPCM. Staff must wear PPE in line with [section 2.2](#).

Cleaning and decontamination of the patient room within healthcare settings should be undertaken using:

- a combined detergent/disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine (ppm av.cl), or
- a general-purpose neutral detergent in a solution of warm water followed by disinfection solution of 1,000ppm av.cl.

Manufacturers' guidance and recommended product "contact time" must be followed for all cleaning/disinfection solutions.

Increased frequency of decontamination/cleaning schedules should be incorporated into the environmental decontamination schedules for rooms occupied by possible, probable, or confirmed.

Terminal decontamination

Inpatient rooms must be terminally cleaned following discharge, transfer or when the possible, probable, or confirmed mpox case is deemed no longer infectious as below.

For possible, probable and confirmed cases of **HCID Clade I mpox**, a combined detergent/disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine (ppm available chlorine (av.cl.)) or a general purpose neutral detergent in a solution of warm water followed by disinfection solution of 1,000ppm av.cl. should be used following discharge/ transfer as per NIPCM. Staff must wear PPE in line with [section 2.2](#) of this document. Linen, curtains and bed screens should be held for possible and probable cases until sample results are available. If the case is confirmed HCID Clade I, linen should be treated as Category B waste (see [section 2.5](#)). HPV room decontamination may be considered as part of the terminal clean.

For possible, probable and confirmed **non-HCID Clade II** cases, this should be in line with Transmission Based Precautions in [Section 2.3 of the NIPCM](#).

In primary care settings where a consultation with a possible, probable, or confirmed mpox case has taken place, ensure thorough cleaning using the same products stated above once the patient leaves the room and wearing the PPE outlined in [section 2.2](#). This must include all equipment and surfaces and as a minimum and a full floor clean at the end of the day.

2.4 Waste

By international agreement, samples and waste from **all** mpox cases are classified as Category B for transport and waste management. Infectious waste from these individuals can be treated as healthcare (clinical) Category B waste as per [Multilateral Agreement M347 under section 1.5.1 of ADR on the carriage of monkeypox virus](#) and can be disposed of in an orange bag for alternative treatment and do not have to be sent for incineration. The waste will be assigned to UN3291, clinical waste.

If there is any chemical or pharmaceutical contamination, the waste must be consigned in a yellow container (or purple if cytotoxic/cytostatic) and incinerated or sent to a permitted site for disposal as per national regulation.

Note: Viral cultures of MPXV remain classified as Category A.

2.5 Linen management

Contaminated clothing and linen are a potential source of transmission. Care must be taken not to shake the linen and prevent dispersal of skin scales.

Ideally, infectious linen should be stored securely until diagnostic results are available. If mpox is ruled out manage linen as infectious linen in line with [Appendix 8](#) of the NIPCM.

If mpox is confirmed, linen should be held securely until clade is established. Linen from a possible, probable or confirmed HCID Clade I mpox case **must not be returned to the laundry**. If HCID Clade I mpox is confirmed, the linen must be disposed of as Category B waste as outlined in [section 2.4](#).

All linen generated during the care of a possible, probable, or confirmed case of Clade II non-HCID mpox must be managed as infectious linen in line with [Appendix 8](#) of the NIPCM.

2.6 Safe management of blood and body fluids

Spillages of blood and/or other body fluids associated with a possible, probable or confirmed case of mpox must be treated immediately in line with [Appendix 9](#) of the NIPCM.

Please refer to [Appendix 1](#) of this document for a summary table of the above.

2.7 IPC advice for MPXV vaccination teams

If vaccinating a possible, probable, or confirmed mpox case, the content of this guidance document should be followed.

If vaccinating asymptomatic contacts who **do not** fit the possible, probable, or confirmed case definition or HCWs as part of a routine response where that HCW has not had any exposure to a case of mpox, IPC requirements are those in line with standard IPC vaccination protocols and there is considered no additional risk. Gloves are not routinely required for vaccination. An [SBAR detailing the evidence around this](#) is available.

2.8 Visitors

Visitors to possible, probable, or confirmed mpox inpatients should be restricted where possible. If essential, for example carer, parents or guardians, individual advice should be sought from IPCT/HPT regarding the safest way to arrange a visit.

Appendix 1 – Summary of mpox IPC management

IPC Measure	Mpox Clade I ¹ (HCID) Suspected or confirmed cases Previously known as: Congo Basin or Central African clade	Mpox Clade II ¹ (non-HCID) Suspected or confirmed cases Previously known as: West African clade
Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) Hazard Group ²	3	3
Transportation of viral cultures	Category A	Category B
Transportation of samples and Categorisation of waste ³	Category B	Category B
Waste management	Clinical waste stream with appropriate PPE	As per TBPs
Linen management	Store securely until results available. If confirmed Clade I, manage as Category B waste with appropriate PPE.	As per TBPs
Equipment management Environmental management	As per TBPs with appropriate PPE.	As per TBPs
Personal protective equipment	As per table 1	As per table 2

Notes:

1. refer to [Monkeypox: experts give virus variants new names \(who.int\)](#)
2. refer to [The Approved List of biological agents: Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens \(hse.gov.uk\)](#)
- 3, See [Multilateral Agreement M347](#) under section 1.5.1 of ADR on the carriage of monkeypox virus, By derogation of paragraph 2.2.62.1.4.1, Section 3.2.1. (Table A, 'Dangerous goods list') and Chapter 4.1 of 'Accord relatif au transport international des marchandises dangereuses par route' (ADR), infectious substances containing monkeypox virus except for cultures of monkeypox virus may be carried under UN 3373 or UN 3291, as appropriate.