

Cairns Public Health Unit  
Level 7, 5B Sheridan St, Cairns, Qld 4870  
Phone: (07) 4226 5555  
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## **Clinician alert: Mpox**

### **Key points:**

- Local transmission of mpox has been reported in north Queensland.
- In Australia, mpox infections have almost exclusively been diagnosed among men who have sex with men, transmitted through sexual contact and other similarly close contact.
- Encourage two doses of mpox vaccine for eligible people at increased risk.
- Test for mpox in people with compatible signs and symptoms, especially men who have sex with men.
- Most mpox cases are mild and self-limiting, however severe infection or complications can occur, especially in people who are immunocompromised.

### **Symptoms may include:**

- Prodrome of fever, lymphadenopathy, headache, myalgia, arthralgia
- Rash (progression: macules, papules, vesicles, pustules, crusted scabs)
- Genital, perianal or oral lesions
- Urethritis
- Rectal pain or bleeding

\* Note that partially or fully vaccinated patients may have atypical or mild illness

### **Testing:**

- Test appropriately for other STIs/ blood borne viruses
- For mpox take a dry swab from lesion, request PCR mpox, syphilis, herpes
- Collect a rectal swab if proctitis only

### **Vaccination is recommended for people at risk of exposure:**

- Sexually active gay, bisexual or other men who have sex with men (GBMSM), including transgender and gender-diverse people
- Sex workers
- People living with HIV, if at risk of mpox exposure
- Other individuals whose sexual networks might include GBMSM
- Laboratory personnel working with orthopoxviruses

Consider for healthcare workers at risk of exposure to patients with mpox

# Cairns and Hinterland

Hospital and Health Service

## **Resources:**

[Mpox vaccine clinic finder](#)

[STI Guidelines Australia | Australian STI Guidelines website](#)

[Decision Making in Mpox | ASHM Health](#)

[Mpox – Health Pathways](#)

Yours sincerely



Dr Jacqueline Murdoch  
Director Cairns Public Health Unit