

Monkeypox

Information for sex on premises venues

This document provides information and advice for owners, managers, and staff of sex on premises venues (SOPVs).

What do you need to know about monkeypox?

Monkeypox is a disease that is caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. There is currently a multi-country outbreak of monkeypox. Cases have been detected in Australia, with an increasing number of people acquiring their infection locally. While the current outbreak has disproportionately impacted men who have sex with men, anyone who has been in close and usually prolonged contact with someone with monkeypox is at risk.

Monkeypox symptoms may include:

- A rash that can be painful and could affect any part of the body including genitals, area around the anus, inside the mouth, face, palms of the hands, soles of the feet. The rash may involve vesicles, pustules, pimples, or ulcers. The number of lesions varies. The rash may change and go through different stages, like chickenpox, before finally becoming a scab that falls off.
- Symptoms such as swollen lymph nodes, fevers, chills, muscle aches, backache, exhaustion, or headache. These symptoms can precede or accompany the monkeypox rash.
- Inflammation of the rectum (proctitis), with pain, bloody stools, diarrhoea, or difficulty in passing stools.

If you develop any monkeypox symptoms, you should immediately isolate from others and seek medical care. You should attend your GP or sexual health clinic, wear a mask and call to let them know you will be attending. If you have a have a rash or blisters, you need to make sure these are covered.

Monkeypox can be transmitted through skin-to skin contact, contact with contaminated surfaces or items (such as clothing, bedding, and towels), and respiratory droplets.

People with monkeypox are contagious from the time they develop their first symptoms until all symptoms resolve and rash lesions crust, dry and fall off.

Symptoms may develop up to 21 days after contact with someone with monkeypox.

For more information about Monkeypox visit the [Better Health Channel](https://betterhealth.vic.gov.au/monkeypox) betterhealth.vic.gov.au/monkeypox

What can you do to prevent the spread of monkeypox?

You are an important partner in Victoria's public health response to the current monkeypox outbreak, along with community organisations, and clinicians. Keep yourself informed about monkeypox so you can look after yourself, your staff and people attending your venue.

You can play a key role in providing information about monkeypox and educating people who attend your venue by displaying posters and information about monkeypox around your venue.

It is important that people with monkeypox isolate from others and abstain from sex while symptomatic, from the onset of symptoms and until their lesions have healed and the scabs have dried and fallen off. People are asked, as a precaution, to use condoms with all sexual partners for eight weeks after infection. You can encourage people attending your venue be aware of monkeypox symptoms. If someone has these symptoms, you can ask them to not attend your venue or event until they seek medical advice and know they are well.

Ensure that your staff know the common symptoms of monkeypox. If any of your staff report those symptoms, you can ask them to not attend work until they seek medical advice from their GP or a sexual health clinic.

Monkeypox vaccine is now available for high-risk groups. Visit the monkeypox page for up to date information about vaccine eligibility <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/monkeypox>.

If you or your staff have been identified as a close contact of a person with monkeypox, you will be contacted by public health officers of the Department of Health and provided advice about monitoring for symptoms and getting vaccinated.

Advice for general cleaning in sex on premises venues

Frequent and thorough cleaning, and safe waste management are essential to reduce the risk of monkeypox transmission in sex on premises venues.

Regular cleaning can significantly reduce the spread of monkeypox from contaminated surfaces. Sex on premises venues should follow their protocols for routine cleaning using standard cleaning and disinfection methods and products. Specialist cleaning is not required.

Existing venue cleaning protocols should be strengthened with additional measures:

- Areas should be frequently cleaned if they become soiled with semen, faeces, blood, urine, or lubricant.
- Spot cleaning should be undertaken at least hourly (or more frequently if warranted during busy periods). Focus on cleaning any surfaces that might be in contact with people's skin, such as benches, chairs, walls, beds, and sofas. Use furnishings that can be cleaned where soiling is most likely to occur.
- All textiles (towels, sheets) that have been in contact with skin, or that have been contaminated with biological material, should be washed at a minimum of 60 °C. Do not shake these items before washing.

Waste such as tissues, condoms and paper towels should be double bagged and managed through standard waste management.

Staff performing cleaning and waste disposal should wear a fluid-repellent surgical mask, non-sterile disposable gloves, and a disposable apron. Hands should be cleaned before and after every clean using soap and water. Alcohol-based hand sanitiser can be used as an alternative to soap and water.

Hand washing facilities and alcohol-based hand sanitisers should be readily available for staff and patrons.

For further information contact Partner Notification Officers at the Department of Health by phone 03 9096 3367 or email to Contact.Tracers@health.vic.gov.au.

To receive this document in another format, phone **1300 650 172**, using the National Relay Service **13 36 77** if required, or email <pph.communications@health.vic.gov.au>.

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