

# Monkeypox contact tracing guidance: classification of contacts and advice for vaccination and follow up

## What this guidance is for

This guidance provides principles for risk assessment and follow up of contacts of confirmed monkeypox cases. It is intended to support risk assessment and categorisation of contacts to ensure they are offered appropriate isolation advice and vaccination.

[Further information on Monkeypox](#) is available online.

Exposure risk category	Description	Risk	Surveillance	Recommendation for PEP	Example scenarios	Information sheets
3 Unprotected direct contact or high risk environmental contact	<p>Direct exposure of broken skin or mucous membranes to monkeypox case (once symptomatic), their body fluids or potentially infectious material (including on clothing or bedding) without wearing appropriate PPE<sup>1</sup></p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inhalation of droplets or dust from cleaning contaminated rooms</li> <li>mucosal exposure to splashes</li> <li>penetrating sharps injury from contaminated device or through contaminated gloves</li> <li>people who normally share a residence (either on a permanent or part time basis) with a person who has been diagnosed with monkeypox, and who have spent at least 1 night in the residence during the period when the case is infectious</li> </ul>	High	<p>Active monitoring</p> <p>Provide information and contact number</p> <p>Daily communication with contact for 21 days after last exposure</p> <p>Self-isolation for 21 days, including exclusion from work</p> <p>No travel permitted</p> <p>Avoid contact with immunosuppressed people<sup>2</sup>, pregnant women, and children aged under 12 where possible</p>	Offer MVA-BN vaccine (Imvanex®), ideally within 4 days (up to a maximum 14 days)	<p>Body fluid in contact with eyes, nose, or mouth</p> <p>Penetrating sharps injury from used needle</p> <p>Contact in room during aerosol-generating procedure without appropriate respiratory PPE<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Changing a patient's bedding without appropriate PPE<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Sexual contact</p> <p>Household contact</p>	<p>See active follow up category 3 information sheet</p> <p>See monkeypox isolation for symptomatic contacts sheet</p>
2 Unprotected exposure to infectious materials including droplet or airborne potential route	<p>Not category 3 but:</p> <p>Intact skin-only contact with a symptomatic monkeypox case, their body fluids or potentially infectious material or contaminated fomite</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Passengers seated directly next to case on plane</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>No direct contact but within 1 metre of symptomatic monkeypox case without wearing appropriate PPE<sup>1</sup></p>	Medium	<p>Active monitoring</p> <p>Provide information and number to contact</p> <p>Daily communication with contact for 21 days after last exposure</p> <p>Avoid contact with immunosuppressed people<sup>2</sup>, pregnant women and children aged under 12 where possible.</p> <p>Exclude from work for 21 days if work involves contact with immunosuppressed people<sup>2</sup>, pregnant women or children</p>	Offer PEP with MVA-BN vaccine (Imvanex®), ideally within 4 days (up to a maximum 14 days)	<p>Clinical examination of patient before diagnosis without appropriate PPE<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Entering patient's room without wearing appropriate PPE<sup>1</sup> and within 1 metre of case</p> <p>Driver and passengers in shared car or taxi with case, or sitting next to case on plane</p> <p>Subsequent patients in consulting room after a confirmed case was seen and prior to room cleaning</p>	<p>See active follow up category 2 information sheet</p> <p>If symptoms develop see monkeypox isolation for symptomatic contacts sheet</p>

Exposure risk category	Description	Risk	Surveillance	Recommendation for PEP	Example scenarios	Information sheets
			aged under 12 (not limited to healthcare workers)  Discuss travel on a case by case basis if asymptomatic			
1-B  Protected physical or droplet exposure	Not category 3 or 2 but:  Contact with confirmed monkeypox case or environment contaminated with monkeypox while wearing appropriate PPE <sup>1</sup> (with no known breaches)	Low	Passive monitoring  Provide information sheet and number to contact  Can continue with routine activities and travel as long as asymptomatic	Offer PEP with MVA-BN vaccine (Imvanex <sup>®</sup> ) <sup>3</sup> , ideally within 4 days (up to a maximum 14 days)	Healthcare staff working in HCID specialist unit wearing appropriate PPE <sup>1</sup>  Person undertaking decontamination of rooms where a confirmed case has stayed, while wearing PPE <sup>1</sup>	See passive follow up information sheet  If symptoms develop see monkeypox isolation for symptomatic contacts sheet
1-A  No physical contact, unlikely droplet exposure	Not category 3, 2 or 1B but:  Community contact between 1 and 3 metres of a symptomatic case <b>OR</b> Healthcare worker (HCW) involved in care of monkeypox case not wearing appropriate PPE <sup>1</sup> for contact between 1 and 3 metres and has had no direct contact with contaminated objects <b>OR</b> Passengers seated within 3 rows from case on plane	Low	Passive monitoring  Provide information sheet and number to contact  Can continue with routine activities and travel as long as asymptomatic	PEP not usually required	Staff entering patient room without PPE <sup>1</sup> AND a. without direct contact with patient or their body fluids <b>and</b> b. maintaining a distance of more than 1 metre from patient  Passengers who have been seated within 3 rows, but not directly next to, a case on plane.	See passive follow up information sheet  If symptoms develop see monkeypox isolation for symptomatic contacts sheet
0  No contact	Not category 3, 2 or 1A or 1B: No known contact with symptomatic monkeypox case in last 21 days <b>OR</b> Passengers seated more than 3 rows away from case on plane <b>OR</b> Laboratory staff operating to UK standards handling specimens relating to a monkeypox case	None	None	PEP not required	Passengers seated away from case on plane (that is, more than 3 rows away)  Staff handling specimens in a UK laboratory to UK standards	See general information sheet

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> Full PPE includes as a minimum: FFP3 respirator, long sleeved gown, gloves and eye protection as per the [National infection prevention and control manual for England](#) (page 57).

<sup>2</sup> Severely immunosuppressed patients, as per [Green Book](#) definition and includes those with: solid organ cancer, haematological disease and/or stem cell transplant, Child's-Pugh class B or C liver cirrhosis, stage 4 or 5 chronic kidney disease, immune mediated inflammatory disorders (including neurological and rheumatological conditions) treated with B-cell depleting therapy within 12 months, uncontrolled HIV, solid organ transplant recipients.

<sup>3</sup> If MVA-BN vaccine (Imvanex<sup>®</sup>) in short supply then [follow prioritisation advice](#).

<sup>4</sup> Data on median incubation periods for monkeypox is limited and may be influenced by factors including type of exposure. This guidance may be subject to revision as further data is accrued.