

Mpox Playbook

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This playbook was researched and written by members of the
[2025 APIC Emerging Infectious Diseases Task Force](#)



Mpox Playbook

Last Update: **November 7, 2025**

Playbook Status: ACTIVE

ACTIVE: The epidemiology of the pathogen is constantly evolving, and updates will occur at least twice a year and as needed.

LATENT: The epidemiology of the pathogen is NOT evolving, and updates will occur only on an as-needed basis.

Please contact CRPI@apic.org if you have any questions regarding this document.

Recent Updates

- **CDC Traveler Health Notice:** [Level 2: Practice Enhanced Precautions](#) as of 9/8/2025
- **CDC Risk/Triage Scale – Level 2:** [Recommend increased awareness and planning](#) as of 06/24/2025
- **CD Current Situation Update:** [Mpox Current Situation](#): in the United States and around the World as of 08/06/2025
- **CDC Outbreak Reports:** [International and U.S. Outbreak Updates](#) as of 08/21/2025

How to Use the Playbook

This playbook is designed to provide a comprehensive synopsis of key topics, offering essential background information and relevant epidemiology. Additionally, the playbook includes:

- (1) [Top Practice Resources](#) highlighting critical resources to guide infection prevention practices (i.e., isolation precautions, patient placement, etc.)
- (2) [Consumer/Patient-Focused Resources](#) table with materials designed to inform and educate patients and the general public about the pathogen and prevention measures
- (3) [Additional Resources](#) section with links to supplementary materials and tools for further exploration

Prioritized Audiences

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Acute care hospitals | • STI clinics |
| • Emergency departments | • Outpatient Departments |
| • Urgent care centers | • Private medical office |
| • Walk-in clinics | |

Background

- Mpox (previously known as Monkeypox) is a viral illness caused by the mpox virus. Two primary clades exist (Clade I and II), and subclades exist within those.
- A primary symptom of mpox is a distinctive rash, images of which can be viewed [here](#).
- In 2022-2023, a global outbreak of Mpox occurred, caused by the clade IIb. Additionally, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) experienced an increased number of cases due to clade I ([European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, April 5, 2024](#)).
- On August 7th, 2024, the CDC released a [Health Alert Network \(HAN\) advisory](#) describing evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention guidelines.
- On August 14, 2024, the WHO declared a [Global Health Emergency](#) regarding the outbreak in the DRC and a growing number of other African countries.

Relevant Epidemiology

Relevant Epidemiology	Details
Clade I: Endemic in Central Africa, and historically causes more severe disease than clade II, with mortality rates ranging from 4 – 10%	Clade Ia: - Primarily transmitted between animals and humans, either through exposure to an animal or from eating bush meat - Disproportionately affects children, with almost 70% of cases occurring in those 15 yrs or younger - Associated new link for rash cover entire body, including face and torso; - Cases have only ever been identified in Africa, primarily central and eastern African countries - As of October 2024, a large outbreak in the DRC and neighboring countries is ongoing Clade Ib: - Primarily spread human to human by close contact, including sexual activity - Most cases occur in adults - Associated new link for rash usually in the mouth or genital area; - Clade Ib emerged recently, starting in the DRC, but then extended into Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi in July/August 2024 - There has been travel associated clade 1 mpox cases in Australia, Europe, Asia and North America - The first case of mpox clade I reported outside of Africa was in Sweden on August 15, 2024, in an individual who traveled and had been exposed to mpox while in a country with a large mpox outbreak
Clade II: Endemic in West Africa, and historically causes less severe disease than Clade I, with a mortality rate of < 1%	Clade IIa: - Primarily transmitted between animals and humans, either through exposure to an animal or from eating bush meat. Clade IIb: - Primarily spread human to human by sexual activity - Most cases occur in adults - Associated rash is usually in the mouth or genital area - Expanded into other countries and led to a large global outbreak in 2022

Top Practice Resources

Note: The resources hyperlinked below are those from leading public health organizations and agencies that APIC's Emerging Infectious Diseases Task Force has identified as the most relevant and reliable based on topic area.

Topic	Look for...
Screening Criteria and Clinical Information	• Mpox infection control as of 04/01/2025 • Clinical overview as of 04/30/2025 • Clinical features with photos as of 09/12/2024 • Signs and symptoms as of 09/12/2024 • Epidemic criteria as of 09/12/2024 • Case definitions - including reinfection as of 09/12/2024 • Interim clinical considerations for use of vaccine as of 02/14/2025 • Clinical treatment as of 01/30/2025 • Mpox screening form for healthcare facility entrance as of 10/16/2024
Special Populations	• Clinical considerations for children and adolescents as of 09/13/2024
Testing Criteria and Sample Transport	• Diagnostic testing as of 08/27/2024 • Specimen collection and handling as of 09/13/2024 • Biosafety laboratory guidance for handling and processing as of 09/14/2024
Isolation and Personal Protective Equipment	• All topics below found here as of 07/8/2025 ○ Isolation precautions ○ Patient placement with air handling considerations ○ High-risk procedure recommendations ○ Personal protective equipment ○ Waste management ○ Environment cleaning ○ Duration of isolation precautions ○ Exposure management ○ Visitation • Discharge information (at-home IPC efforts)
Disinfectant for Emerging Viral Pathogens	• Products with emerging viral pathogen claims as of 02/03/2025
Occupation Health and Exposure Management	• Exposure and prophylaxis management as of 7/8/2025 • Work restrictions for healthcare workers as of 07/8/2025 • Isolation and infection control at home as of 09/13/2024 • Autopsy and handling of human remains as of 09/13/2024

Patient and General Public Resources

Note: The resources hyperlinked below are those from leading public health organizations and agencies that APIC's Task Force has identified as the most relevant and reliable based on the topic area.

Topic	Look for...
How Mpox Spreads – General	• All topics below found here as of 01/30/2025 ○ How it spreads ○ How it does not spread
Preventing Mpox – General	• All topics below found here as of 12/11/2024 ○ Vaccination ○ Sex and social gatherings ○ General precautions
Recovering from Mpox at Home	• Infographic for isolation and recovering at home as of 07/18/2022
Considerations for Reducing Transmission in Congregate Living Settings	• All topics below found here as of 08/27/2024 ○ Communications with staff and residents ○ Case and exposure response

Additional Resource

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\), Monkeypox Case Investigation](#) (Last Updated: October 2025)
- [HUD Exchange, COVID-19 Homeless System Response, Vaccine Messaging Toolkit](#) (Published: July 2021)
- [National Health Care for the Homeless Council, Fact Sheet on Mpox and People Experiencing Homelessness, 2022](#) (Published: August 2022)
- [World Health Organization, Mpox Toolkit](#) (Last Updated: February 2025)
- [Emergence of Clade Ib Monkeypox Virus—Current State of Evidence](#) (Last Updated: July 2025)
- [Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\) Exchange, Resources on Mpox, Several Topics](#)
- [World Health Organization, Public advice for Mpox](#)