



How to use the tool kit for event organisers

Summer is here and there are a lot of great opportunities for people to gather and enjoy themselves. Public health authorities are working together with event organisers and civil society organisations to reach out to people attending events, including at-risk groups, about monkeypox in Europe. This toolkit, jointly created by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), provides health authorities, civil society organisations and event organisers with customisable tools on monkeypox for mass gatherings, both for consideration and use.

About the toolkit

The toolkit is comprised of:

- 1) technical guidance;
- 2) trainings;
- 3) operational tools;
- 4) key messages for event organisers to share with event-goers;
- 5) suggestions for message dissemination;
- 6) social media tiles;
- 7) a stage announcement script;
- 8) posters;
- 9) an information leaflet;
- 10) video clips of event participants and experts;
- 11) QR codes for more information;
- 12) photos of monkeypox rashes and lesions; and
- 13) after-event follow-up actions.

The toolkit is available in English and Russian. Health authorities, Event organisers and international health organisations are welcome to translate it into other languages as needed.

Messages are developed for use before, during, and after an event. You can either share materials through your platforms and channels as they are, or rebrand them. If you rebrand materials with your own logo, please remove any current logos or contact us. Posters, social media tiles, and the information leaflet are provided in an editable format, and you can adjust language to fit the needs of your audience when rebranding with your logo.



Monkeypox Outbreak

A Risk Communication Toolkit for Event Organizers

1 July 2022

Contents

1. The role you have in protecting people from monkeypox
2. The steps you can take
3. The messages you can share
4. The multimedia tools you can use
5. The community actors you can engage
6. The resources you can consult

1. The role you have in protecting people from monkeypox

This toolkit is designed to help organise events in a safe manner and can be a starting point for conversations between local and national health authorities (e.g. Ministry of Health, city department of health, national or local disease control agency, local health authorities) and event organisers, as well as civil society organisations. As an event organiser, you have an excellent and important opportunity to help people at your event learn about monkeypox and act in ways that best protect their health. This toolkit accompanies two interim advice documents by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in the context of monkeypox.^{1,2}

About monkeypox

An outbreak of monkeypox, a viral disease, is currently occurring in several countries in the WHO European Region. This is concerning and unusual for several reasons:

- All but one case have no travel links to areas of the world where monkeypox is commonly transmitted.
- The majority of cases have been reported in men who have sex with men (MSM). Those who have frequent sex with multiple partners are at the highest risk of becoming infected with monkeypox.
- The geographically dispersed nature of the cases across Europe and beyond suggests that some level of undetected transmission of the virus might have been occurring.
- The symptoms for most cases reported include a localised rash, particularly around the genitals and anus.

Monkeypox spreads through close physical contact with an infected person, especially skin-to-skin contact, including during sex. MSM have been disproportionately affected. However, anybody having close physical contact with someone showing symptoms of monkeypox can catch the disease. Some sexual practices (e.g. having multiple and frequent sexual contacts, including anonymous contacts) may put people more at risk of infection.

The first symptoms of the disease are aches and fever. These are commonly followed by an uncomfortable and sometimes painful rash that can appear on different parts of the body, including around the anus and genitals. In most cases, the rash clears up within a few weeks without the need for treatment. However, for some people, including pregnant women, young children, and immunocompromised individuals, monkeypox can cause severe disease requiring medical attention.

¹ [Interim advice for public health authorities on summer events during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022](#)

² [Interim advice on Risk Communication and Community Engagement during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022 \(2022\)](#)

Summer festivals: the risk and the opportunity

This summer, festivals and gatherings across Europe will bring together many hundreds of thousands of people from different countries. Most attendees are highly mobile and sexually active people, and a number of them will have intimate, skin-to-skin contact at or around these events. Some may have multiple sexual contacts, including with new and/or anonymous partners. Without action, we risk seeing a surge of monkeypox cases in Europe this summer.

Lessons from previous outbreaks spread through social and sexual networks have shown that cancelling organised gatherings is likely to be counterproductive to disease control efforts. Venue closure or event cancellation does not reduce sexual contacts but rather shifts the activities to other settings, including private parties, which are less accessible to community outreach or public health interventions.

Mass gatherings do not amplify transmission by themselves – it is the behaviour during events that matters. They may be a conducive environment for the transmission of monkeypox if they entail close, prolonged, and frequent interactions, especially sexual activity. Understanding and targeting at-risk behaviour can help reduce the spread of monkeypox.

How you can help stop the outbreak

By joining forces with local health authorities and civil society organisations, event organisers have a key role in reducing the transmission of monkeypox and protecting people's health. One way to address this is to think about the journey that the participant will go on through their interaction with your event. We are asking you to consider the following actions:

- Actively use the messages in this document to:
 - target your guests before, during and after their event;
 - engage with organisers of fringe events such as parties or club nights;
 - encourage their use in the bars, saunas, and sex-on-premises venues your guests may use in the surrounding area to inform participants about protective measures.
- Give guests information on how to contact sexual health services in your area/country.
- If any outbreak of monkeypox or a sexually transmitted infection (STI) does arise, cooperate with your local public health authority and help them contact people who may have been exposed, acting in line with European Union General Data Protection Regulation and national privacy protection regulations. If participants do not feel able to share this information, advise them to contact their close contacts directly or ask a healthcare provider to do so anonymously, in consultation with your local public health authority.

To reduce the spread of the virus and to help end this outbreak, the WHO Regional Office for Europe and ECDC are working with health authorities, event organisers, and civil society organisations across the European Region to target to those at the highest risk of infection with health information and advice.

2. The steps you can take

You can take steps to help **reduce transmission** of monkeypox among your guests by considering the following actions:

Referring to guidance from your health authorities. It's important to work with national or local public health authorities and refer to national guidance when planning your event.

Communicating risks and preventive measures

- Share health information and advice with participants before, during, and after the event using simple and visual content in relevant languages.
 - For online channels – registration forms, web, social media, newsletters and apps (including push notifications);
 - For the event – big screens, banners, posters (for instance, at eye-level above urinals or on the back of toilet doors), stage announcements;
- Use health information and advice from health authorities and international health organisations when developing messages on monkeypox and when sharing information on your channels. This toolkit includes templates you may find useful (see page 8 for how to use materials provided in this toolkit).
- Ensure your spokespeople are prepared and ready to answer questions about monkeypox, and have positive, factual information ready to share.
 - Review the resources below, which include Question and Answers and scripts for announcements before, during, and after your event. These can help spokespeople prepare their answers to questions about monkeypox.
 - When possible, access information about monkeypox and guidance on how to prevent the transmission of monkeypox from local and national health authorities or international health organisations such as WHO or ECDC.
 - If you are faced with a novel situation not covered by the information in circulation, please ask local and national health authorities or international health organisations for support to make sure messaging is accurate and consistent.
- Make health information and advice available to anyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender, but target specific groups at a higher risk of exposure, such as men who have sex with men.
- Consider continuing to provide updated health information and advice to people on how to detect monkeypox and seek medical advice on your websites, social media accounts, and apps for at least four to six weeks after the event.

Engaging community actors, business owners, and population groups

- Where relevant, engage civil society organisations to provide health information and advice through their networks; for instance, event organisers may contact civil society representatives of at-risk groups to leverage the trust they have with community members.

- Extend health information and advice to side events of gatherings (for example, night clubs, bars, and others) and business premises where sex may take place on the premises (for example, saunas and sex clubs).
- When possible, and acting in line with European Union General Data Protection Regulation and national privacy protection regulations, encourage participants to keep contact details of sexual contacts (social media handles, dating app accounts, phone numbers or email addresses) as this may help in contact tracing in the event that any sexually transmitted infection or monkeypox is diagnosed. This is critical to stop onwards spread.
- In collaboration with your public health authorities, ensure first aid workers and the medical teams at the venue are familiar with monkeypox symptoms and clinical guidance, and know what to do if they identify suspected cases.

Preventing and controlling the infection

- Provide sufficient hand-washing facilities and hand sanitisers, as per national recommendations.
 - Ensure hand-washing facilities are available to participants, that they are located across the venue area, and that information is provided to alert attendees about where they can wash or sanitise their hands.
- Distribute alcohol-based hand rub at multiple sites across the venue, particularly near toilets and in food courts, or near food trucks.
- Clean and disinfect the event premises regularly; for specifics, please review the national recommendations, and [WHO Regional Office for Europe and ECDC guidance](#).
- Allocate a private space in the event venue for attendees, volunteers, and staff who may start to show symptoms while they are attending the event. Make sure proper medical assistance is secured.

3. The messages you can share

Before the event

Key messages you can use to address event participants

- Before coming to the event, learn more about monkeypox, its symptoms, how to control transmission and what to do if you think you have monkeypox symptoms.
- Please do not trust everything you read/see online: access reliable information from local/national health authorities and reputable international health organisations for up-to-date health information and advice.
- If you have any monkeypox-related symptoms, take a break from festivals and crowded events until you've sought medical advice and have been confirmed to be well or have recovered, in particular that your rash has completely healed.
- If you think you are at increased risk of exposure to monkeypox, you can contact your healthcare provider to see what options you might have to lower the risk.

Channels you can use

- Event website, event app, and social media channels
- Civil society organisations' networks among participants
- Messages and push notifications on apps
- Text blasts (SMS text messages from a single source sent to a large group of people simultaneously)
- Email and direct messages to participants
- Interviews with trusted spokespersons featured on news websites, podcasts, and other media used by event-goers
- Pre-event webcast/Facebook Live/Grindr Live

Remember to collaborate with your **national or local public health authority** (e.g. Ministry of Health, city department of health, national or local disease control agency, local health authorities). They can advise you on how participants should access health services if they think they have monkeypox symptoms.

During the event

Key messages you can use to address event participants

- Be aware of your current health status, and if in doubt opt out from activities that could put others at risk.
- Practice safer sex:
 - having multiple and frequent sexual contacts, including with anonymous partners, may put you more at risk of infection of monkeypox and sexually transmitted infections;
 - wearing condoms does not fully prevent the risk of infection with monkeypox, as skin-to-skin contact is not avoided. However, condoms reduce the risk of sexually transmitted infections;
 - remember to avoid sharing sex toys and keep them clean.
- Keep up to date with the latest health information and advice.
- Maintain good hygiene, like regular hand-cleaning.

Channels you can use

- Volunteers and staff (make sure they know where to obtain information if asked by an event participant)
- Posters at the entrance to the event
- Posters at eye-level above urinals or on back of toilet doors
- Short video messages on big screen(s) at event
- Announcements from the stage
- Event website, event app, or social media channels

- Messages on social media and apps used by people at the event

After the event

Key messages you can use to address event participants

- If you identify a new rash anywhere on your body, seek medical advice by calling your healthcare provider. If monkeypox is transmitted during sex, the rash may first appear around the genitals or the anus. Avoid having close contact with anyone until the rash has completely gone.
- If possible, self-isolate and avoid close contact with others, unless advised otherwise by your healthcare provider.
- Ask your close contacts and sexual partners if they have also had similar symptoms.
- If you notice a new rash on your partner's body, including around the genitals and anus, talk with them and advise that they visit an STI clinic or consult a healthcare provider.
- If your healthcare provider confirms you have monkeypox, follow their advice. Depending on the national recommendations, advice may include the following:
 - Self-isolate if you can, and in particular you should avoid contact with pregnant women, young children, or immunocompromised individuals. You are contagious until the last scab has fallen off.
 - Take a break from sex.
 - Communicate the list of events you have attended in the last 21 days to the health authorities so they can alert other community members who may have been infected.
 - Share the details of close and sexual contacts with health authorities or get in touch with contacts directly so they can be informed and can protect themselves and others.
- Because of current uncertainties about transmission, as a precaution wear a condom for 12 weeks even after you have fully recovered.

Channels you can use

- News items on event websites, event app, or via social media channels
- Post-event webcast/teleconference with participants
- Emails and direct messages to participants
- Push notifications via dating apps
- Interviews with trusted spokespersons featured on websites, podcasts, and media used by participants
- If possible, have an anonymous (i.e. no email or personal information required) form on your website where people can tell you that they have tested positive for monkeypox as well as which events they attended on which day, so that you can use this to alert other event participants.

- Remember to collaborate with your **local public health authority** (e.g. Ministry of Health, city departments of health, national or local disease control agency). They can advise you on how participants should access health services if they think they have monkeypox or a sexually transmitted infection.

[This short video](#) by Steve Taylor (Board member [@EuroPride](#), Head of Secretariat [@CopenhagenPride](#)) explains how event organisers can help amplify public health messaging on [#monkeypox](#).

a. [Questions and Answers on monkeypox](#)

This section details the key Questions and Answers that can be used during the proposed actions in the preceding section.

1. [What is monkeypox?](#)

Monkeypox is a virus that causes a disease with the same name. Its incubation period is between 5 and 21 days. Monkeypox is often self-limiting, meaning symptoms usually go away within two to four weeks without treatment.

2. [What are the symptoms I should look out for?](#)

Symptoms can be mild to severe. They include:

- Rash on face, hands, feet, eyes, in mouth, inside or around the anus, and/or on and around the genitals. May appear with blisters
- inflammation and pain in rectum
- fever
- swollen lymph nodes
- headaches
- muscle aches
- low energy

Symptoms usually begin with a fever, muscle aches, backache, fatigue and then progress to lesions, a rash, and painful lymph nodes. Lesions and rashes can start on the hands, neck, and face and may then spread to the rest of the body. The rash is usually painful and uncomfortable.

In this latest outbreak, most – but not all – cases have been detected in gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men, with lesions and rashes appearing on or around the genitals, on or around the anus, or in the mouth.

However, it is important to emphasise that anyone can catch monkeypox if they have close physical contact with an infectious person, regardless of their sexual orientation. People more at risk of exposure to monkeypox include household members and sexual partners of cases, commercial sex workers, and health workers. It is wrong to stigmatise anyone for having monkeypox.

3. How is monkeypox spread?

Monkeypox is not normally easily spread between people. To catch monkeypox you need to have prolonged close contact with someone who already has monkeypox, or with their contaminated belongings. Having direct skin-to-skin contact with the rash or lesions of someone with monkeypox is particularly risky. Our advice is to, among other things:

- Practice safer sex, including limiting the number of sexual partners. Wearing condoms can reduce but not fully eliminate the risk of infection with monkeypox.
- Keep your hands clean, using soap and water, or alcohol-based sanitiser.

4. What can I do if I suspect I have monkeypox?

If you have any monkeypox-related symptoms, follow your health provider and health authorities' guidance, including:

- Avoid large gatherings, parties, festivals, and crowded events.
- Take a break from having sex until you've sought medical advice and have been confirmed to be well/recovered.
- Report your symptoms to an STI clinic or other health provider.
- Get tested for monkeypox, as advised.

5. What should I do if I am confirmed with monkeypox?

- Follow your health provider and health authorities' guidance, including:
 - Isolate until your symptoms disappear (when the last scab has fallen off and a layer of skin has grown over the lesion).
 - Take a break from sex. Because of uncertainty about transmission, as a precaution wear a condom during sexual activities for 12 weeks after the lesions have healed.
 - Avoid contact with people more vulnerable to severe disease from monkeypox (pregnant women, young children, immunocompromised people).
 - Share your contacts with health authorities so they can be informed and can protect themselves and others. In line with your national regulations, if you do not feel able to share this information, consider contacting close contacts yourself or ask a healthcare provider to do so anonymously.

Resources:

(Public health advice on the recent outbreak of monkeypox in the WHO European Region is available [here](#) and [here](#))

Public health advice on the recent outbreak of monkeypox in the EU/EEUA by ECDC, including guidance for health authorities, event organisers, and the public, as well as epidemiological updates, can be found [here](#).

4. Multimedia tools to use

Materials listed below are both for direct sharing as they are or for rebranding. If you rebrand materials with your own logo, please remove any current logos or contact us. Co-branding documents with the WHO logo or ECDC and yours is **not authorised**. Posters, social media tiles and the information leaflet are provided in an editable format, and you can adjust language to fit the needs of your audience when rebranding with your logo. Resharing WHO/ECDC content on your channels is appreciated and welcome. We kindly ask that you share with us the links to where/how the material was used by contacting Fryn@who.int.

Date available	Product	Description	How/where to use
	Social media graphic/tiles	Concise, eye-catching tiles containing key messages and link to more information.	Social media channels (e.g. Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram).
	Laminated Posters – translated into ENG, RUS.	Concise, eye-catching tiles containing key messages and QR code that links to more information.	Back of toilet doors, above urinals (one poster per urinal if possible), at entrance to venues, first aid centres.
20.6.2022	Photos of monkey rash lesions	A selection of images are available here . Please credit © UK Health Security Agency Kindly email euphotos@who.int if you use them.	Social media channels (e.g. Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram).
	Video clips from Press conference held on 15 June by Dr Hans Kluge and Andrea Ammon	Short video clip from joint press conference urging community engagement to curb transmission.	Web content, pop-ups, social media, video screens at events, media. Please contact Tylers@who.int and palumbol@who.int
15.6.2022	Video clip from Steve Taylor	Short video explainer by Steve Taylor (Board member @EuroPride , Head of Secretariat @CopenhagenPride On how event organisers help amplify public health messaging on #monkeypox?	Web content, pop-ups, social media, video screens at events, media. See link here .

	Video clips from social media live event on monkeypox	Short video featuring up-to-date information on monkeypox from public health and civil society organisations.	Web content, pop-ups, social media, video screens at events, media. Please contact Tylers@who.int and palumbol@who.int .
	Stage announcement script	Short introductory script that helps hosts/presenters, etc. give accurate, well-worded and up-to-date information and advice on monkeypox, and signposts for further information.	For use by hosts and presenters speaking between acts – to draw attention to monkeypox messaging/introduce video message. Please contact Tylers@who.int and palumbol@who.int .
	Animation	10-15 seconds long animation containing key messages and signposting for the big screen.	Animation can be played in intervals between performances on video screens above stages. Please contact Tylers@who.int and palumbol@who.int
	Video clips from participants at events	First-person testimonies about actions participants can take to have fun and stay safe at big gatherings.	Social media, video screens during intervals at events, web content, pop-ups, media. Please contact Tylers@who.int and palumbol@who.int
	QR codes on monkeypox from WHO and ECDC	Link to detailed health information and advice.	For addition to posters, social media, take-home products/leaflets, etc.
	Dating APP script	Key message pop-up, with link to monkeypox information and advice/contacts of sexual health providers.	MSM dating apps (GRINDR, Scruff, Chappy, Planet Romeo, Tinder, Feeld, etc.)

	Video explainer from an event organiser- a 'how-to' guide on risk communication about monkeypox at mass gatherings.	Video explanation of steps needed to inform people, including at-risk groups, about monkeypox at a festival/large event, showing location of posters, explaining how advice was developed with WHO/community groups, shots of follow-up emails, etc. (approximately two minutes.)	Web content, social media, for email distribution, media.
	Gadgets	Consider creating gadgets with a QR code that participants will take home after the event.	Link to public health advice

5. Community actors to engage

Community engagement approaches can maximise outreach to and minimise stigmatization of MSM.

Various organisations exist at the regional, national, sub-national, and local levels working on health for LGBTQIA+, including activist groups and community testing organisations (i.e., checkpoints). These could be contacted, informed, and asked to engage in outreach activities with their members, users and networks about health information and advice on monkeypox and to hear their perceptions and concerns.

Event organisers can discuss with local health authorities how contact tracing can be organised in a timely, discreet, and confidential manner (e.g. through partner notification or conventional contact tracing, along the lines of national recommendations). If necessary, collaborate with local organisations that are experienced in doing outreach and are trusted by communities.

Tips on mapping Civil Society Organisations & other community actors

As community engagement and outreach on topics regarding sexual practices can be sensitive, when possible engaging trusted community groups is advisable. You may have connections with local businesses developed over the years and might strengthen your outreach through partners, event vendors, and venues.

The following questions can help you identify relevant local businesses and community actors and encourage them to post information and advice on their social media, website, and other communication platforms. Remember to partner with your local public health authority (e.g. Ministry of Health, city departments of health, national or local disease control agency) to ensure accuracy and consistency of actions and messaging.

1. Are there Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that represent or work with gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men?
 - If yes, these CSOs may be able to help you target information and advice specifically at men who have sex with men.
2. Are there CSOs that work with youth and young people on sexual health issues?
 - If yes, these CSOs may be able to help you target sexually active young people.
3. Which large parties, saunas, sex-on premise venues, side events, bars and/or nightclubs are participants in your event most likely to visit before or after it?
 - Approach the owners/hosts of these venues to enlist their help sharing public health information.

6. Resources to consult

- [Interim advice for public health authorities on summer events during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022](#)
- [Interim advice on Risk Communication and Community Engagement during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022 \(2022\)](#)
- WHO Regional Office for Europe regular updates on monkeypox: <https://www.who.int/europe/emergencies/situations/monkeypox>
- ECDC Monkeypox page regular epidemiological updates, guidance, and publications on monkeypox: www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/monkeypox-outbreak
- NGOs PrEPster and The Love Tank provide regular updates on monkeypox (including information for venues and event promoters): Everything we know about monkeypox so far: www.queerhealth.info/monkeypox
- Public health advice on the recent outbreak of monkeypox in the WHO European Region. 24 May 2022. [Public health advice on the recent outbreak of monkeypox in the WHO European Region. 24 May 2022](#)
- Monkeypox Q&A [English](#), [Русский](#), [Français](#) (20 May 2022)
- ECDC monkeypox Q&A <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/monkeypox/questions-and-answers>
- WHO factsheet on monkeypox, publishing date, 19 May 2022: <http://www.who.int/news-room/factsheets/detail/monkeypox>
- WHO Surveillance. Case investigation and contact tracing for Monkeypox: Interim guidance, 22 May 2022. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-MONKEYPOX-surveillance-2022.1>
- Laboratory testing for the monkeypox virus: interim guidance. [English](#), [Русский](#) (23 May 2022)
- [Clinical management and infection prevention and control for monkeypox: Interim rapid response guidance, 10 June 2022](#)
- [WHO Monkeypox outbreak: update and advice for health workers, 26 May 2022.](#)



Monkeypox outbreak RCCE toolkit

ASSET: Talking points for presenters making public announcements at Pride events, club nights, and summer festivals

1 July 2022

Background:

Over the last few months, hundreds of people in Europe have caught an infection called monkeypox – many of them through having sex at or after an event, party, or festival. Monkeypox can infect anyone, but so far in this outbreak men who have sex with men have been the most affected. Monkeypox causes a painful rash and people who have weak immune systems, pregnant women, and young children can become very ill from it.

When presenters make public announcements at Pride events, club nights, and summer festivals, they have a great opportunity to join response efforts and protect people from monkeypox. They can target information and advice on how to protect each other from monkeypox to the people most at risk. They can let men who have sex with men know that their group is the most affected by monkeypox and that they may want to take extra care.

It may be most effective to target these speaking points to a presenter or event host who you trust to talk about monkeypox without shaming people or trivialising the subject. Presenters or hosts who have collaborated with the health sector before, for example to communicate about HIV or sexual health issues, could be a good starting point.

What information should presenters give audiences

Do:

- give people the facts about monkeypox;
- tell them who is most at risk, and how we can protect each other;
- say where they can find reliable information on monkeypox;
- give information on how to access health services, including clinics for sexually transmitted infections.

Don't:

- pander to stereotypes by making fun of the name of the disease or the fact it was first identified in Africa.

Who is at risk from monkeypox?

- There is an infection called monkeypox currently circulating in Europe.
- Anyone can catch monkeypox. The virus doesn't care about your gender or sexual orientation.
- That said, the most affected group are currently men who have sex with men.
- Monkeypox is painful and unpleasant, but most people recover after a few weeks.
- However, pregnant women, small children, and people with weakened immune systems can develop severe forms of monkeypox. So, if you have any suspected monkeypox symptoms you need to be particularly careful and avoid contact with these people.

How do you catch monkeypox?

- The main ways in which you can catch monkeypox are:
 - Skin-to-skin contact with someone who has monkeypox;
 - Mouth-to-mouth or mouth-to-skin contact with someone who has monkeypox;
 - Sharing sheets, towels, clothes, or sex toys with someone who has monkeypox.

What are the symptoms of monkeypox?

- The first symptoms of monkeypox are usually fever, muscle aches, fatigue, and swollen lymph nodes.
- At the same time, or shortly after, you usually get a rash that may be painful and itchy.
- The rash can emerge in your mouth, on your hands, your feet, or other areas of your body.
- During this outbreak, the rash has often appeared around the groin or anus.

How can you protect others if you have monkeypox symptoms?

- Take a break from parties, festivals, and events, avoid close contact with others and see your healthcare provider.
- Take a break from sex until you get examined by your healthcare provider.
- Avoid sharing your clothes, towels, or sex toys with others.

What's going on with **MONKEYPOX**

There have been monkeypox cases identified in several countries throughout Europe. Although anyone can become infected with monkeypox, men who have sex with men are currently the most affected group. To date, most of the cases in Europe have been fairly mild, and only few have required hospitalisation. However, some individuals are more at risk for severe outcomes, including those who are immunocompromised, pregnant women and young children.

How is monkeypox transmitted?

Monkeypox needs close physical contact (skin-to-skin), including during sex, to be transmitted. It can also spread through respiratory droplets in prolonged face-to-face contact, and through contaminated objects.

What should I do if I think I have it?

If you have any of the symptoms, seek medical advice. Take a break from visiting events and gatherings, and avoid having close contact, including sex, until you have sought the advice of a health provider and know that you are well. To confirm a monkeypox infection, individuals need to be assessed by a health professional and tested for the virus.

What do I do if I test positive for monkeypox?

If you are diagnosed with monkeypox, you can reduce the risk of passing the virus on by avoiding close contact with others, including sex. Self-isolate, and follow the advice given to you by your healthcare provider and local health authorities. As a precaution and because of current uncertainties about transmission, wear a condom for 12 weeks even after you have fully recovered.

What are the symptoms?

Monkeypox can take the form of rashes, spots, ulcers, or blisters anywhere on the body, but often in the genital area if spread during sex. It may also cause inflammation and pain in the rectum, fever, swollen lymph nodes, headaches, muscle aches and low energy. Symptoms are usually mild to moderate, but some vulnerable groups may have severe symptoms.

How can I stay safe?

Participating in outdoor events and festivals alone does not put you at greater risk of contracting monkeypox infection, it is your behaviour that matters. So enjoy your summer safely! Remember that close physical contact, including sex, may increase your risk of exposure. Having multiple and frequent sexual contacts, including with anonymous partners, may put you more at risk of infection of monkeypox. To protect yourself practice safer sex. Be aware of common symptoms and seek care early if you or a recent partner have any of those mentioned above. If you experience symptoms, take a break from participating in events until you have been checked by a healthcare professional.



European Region



Joint WHO Regional Office for Europe/ECDC Monkeypox Resource toolkit to support national authorities and event organisers in their planning and coordination of mass and large gathering events

4 July 2022, Stockholm/Copenhagen

Background

This toolkit, jointly created by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), provides health authorities and event organisers with ready-to-use and customisable tools for public health preparedness and risk assessment; early warning, alert and response (EWAR); and event-based surveillance; contact tracing; and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) including health information and advice on monkeypox for mass gatherings.

This resource toolkit accompanies the [Interim advice for public health authorities on summer events during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022](#), aiming to provide concise advice to public health authorities and guide their prevention and RCCE interventions before, during, and after upcoming summer events. The toolkit offers a one-stop-shop for technical guidance, trainings, materials and operational tools to support health authorities and event organisers prepare for upcoming large and mass gathering events during the summer. The toolkit will be updated with new materials and resources over time. Different sections can be used by health authorities and other audiences to formulate advice to business and venue owners and event organisers, as well as participants themselves. All advice can be adapted to the local context and the relevant audience and translated into national languages as required.

The following tables present the overview of available documents and other resources (e.g. e-learning courses) addressed to public health authorities hosting mass gatherings in their countries.

Relevant guidance in the context of monkeypox

WHO EURO/ECDC case definitions for suspected, probable, and confirmed monkeypox cases	
<p>WHO case definition⁵</p>	<p>https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-MPX-Surveillance-2022.2</p> <p>Suspected case: A person of any age presenting since 1 January 2022 with an unexplained acute rash or one or more acute skin lesions AND one or more of the following signs or symptoms: ♦ Headache; ♦ Acute onset of fever (>38.5°C); ♦ Lymphadenopathy (swollen lymph nodes); ♦ Myalgia (muscle pain/body aches); ♦ Back pain; ♦ Asthenia (profound weakness); AND for which the following common causes of acute rash or skin lesions do not fully explain the clinical picture: varicella zoster, herpes zoster, measles, herpes simplex, bacterial skin infections, disseminated gonococcus infection, primary or secondary syphilis, chancroid, lymphogranuloma venereum, granuloma inguinale, molluscum contagiosum, allergic reaction (e.g. to plants); and any other locally relevant common causes of papular or vesicular rash.</p> <p>Probable case: A person meeting the case definition for a suspected case AND one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ has an epidemiological link [prolonged^a face-to-face exposure in close proximity, including health workers without appropriate PPE (gloves, gown, eye protection, and respirator)³; direct physical contact with skin or skin lesions, including sexual contact; or contact with contaminated materials such as clothing, bedding or utensils] to a probable or confirmed case of monkeypox in the 21 days before symptom onset. ♦ has had multiple or anonymous sexual partners in the 21 days before symptom onset; ♦ has detectable levels of anti-orthopoxvirus (OPXV) IgM antibody^b (during the period of 4 to 56 days after rash onset); or a four-fold rise in IgG antibody titre based on acute (up to day 5-7) and convalescent (day 21 onwards) samples; in the absence of a recent smallpox/monkeypox vaccination or other known exposure to OPXV ♦ has a positive test result for orthopoxviral infection (e.g. OPXV-specific PCR without MPXV-specific PCR or sequencing).^c <p>Confirmed case: Laboratory-confirmed monkeypox virus by detection of unique sequences of viral DNA by real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and/or sequencing.</p> <p>Discarded case: A suspected or probable case for which laboratory testing of lesion fluid, skin specimens, or crusts by PCR and/or sequencing is negative for MPXV. Conversely, for example, a retrospectively detected probable case for which lesion testing can no longer be adequately performed (i.e. after the crusts fall off) and no other specimen is found PCR-positive, would remain classified as a probable case.</p>

<p>ECDC case definition</p>	<p>Confirmed case: A person with a laboratory-confirmed monkeypox infection (1) monkeypox virus specific PCR assay positive result or (2) orthopoxvirus-specific PCR assay positive result that is then confirmed by nucleotide sequence determination of the detected virus as MPXV) with symptom onset since 1 March 2022.</p> <p>Probable case: A person with an unexplained rash on any part of their body AND one or more other symptom(s) of monkeypox infection with symptom onset since 1 March 2022 AND one of the following: ♦ has a positive laboratory test result on orthopoxviral infection (e.g. orthopoxvirus-specific positive PCR without sequencing, electron microscopy, serology); ♦ has an epidemiological link to a confirmed or probable case of monkeypox in the 21 days before symptom onset; ♦ reports travel to MPX endemic countries in the 21 days before symptom onset; ♦ is a person (of any sexual orientation) who had multiple or anonymous sexual partners in the 21 days before symptom onset; ♦ is a man who has sex with men. OR A person with an unexplained generalised or localised maculopapular or vesiculopustular rash with centrifugal spread, with lesions showing umbilication or scabbing, lymphadenopathy and one or more other MPX-compatible symptoms.</p>	<p>https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/risk-assessment-monkeypox-multi-country-outbreak</p>
<p>WHO EURO/ECDC Recommendations for Large Events/Mass Gatherings in the Context of Monkeypox</p> <p>Interim advice for public health authorities on summer events during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022</p>	<p>Aim: To provide concise advice to public health authorities and guide their prevention, awareness-raising, and behaviour change interventions before, during and after upcoming summer events. Although the main focus is monkeypox in the context of the current multi-country outbreak, much of the advice addresses good public health practices in general that may help prevent the transmission of a number of infectious diseases (e.g. HIV, sexually transmitted infections, etc). This guidance also includes sections that can be used to formulate advice to business/venue owners and event organisers, as well as participants themselves. All advice can be adapted to the local context and the relevant audience and translated into national languages, as required.</p>	<p>https://www.who.int/europe/publications/m/item/interim-advice-for-public-health-authorities-on-summer-events-during-the-monkeypox-outbreak-in-europe--2022</p>
<p>Surveillance, case investigation and contact tracing for Monkeypox</p>		
<p>WHO interim guidance: Surveillance, case investigation and contact tracing for Monkeypox</p>	<p>Aim: The key objectives of surveillance and case investigation for monkeypox in the current context are to rapidly identify cases and clusters in order to provide optimal clinical care; to isolate cases to prevent further transmission; to identify and manage contacts; to protect frontline health workers; and to tailor effective control and prevention measures. Contacts should be monitored at least daily for the onset of any signs/symptoms for a period of 21 days from last contact with a patient or their contaminated materials during the infectious period. Quarantine or exclusion from work are not necessary during the contact tracing period as long as no symptoms develop.</p> <p>This guidance outlines the recommendations related to surveillance, case investigation, and contact tracing.</p>	<p>Surveillance, case investigation and contact tracing for Monkeypox: interim guidance (who.int)</p>

<p>Considerations for contact tracing during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022 - ECDC</p>	<p>This ECDC document aims to provide interim advice and considerations to public health authorities in the EU/EEA countries conducting contact tracing in the context of the ongoing monkeypox outbreak.</p>	<p>https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/monkeypox-outbreak</p>
<p>Clinical management and infection prevention and control for monkeypox</p>		
<p>Clinical management and infection prevention and control for monkeypox: Interim rapid response guidance, 10 June 2022</p>	<p>The guidance includes considerations for certain populations such as patients with mild disease with considerations for community care, patients with moderate to severe disease, sexually active persons, pregnant or breastfeeding women, children, and young persons. The guidance also addresses considerations for clinical management such as the use of therapeutics, nutritional support, mental health services, and post-infection follow-up.</p> <p>The document provides guidance for clinicians, health facility managers, health workers and infection prevention and control practitioners including but not limited to those working in primary care clinics, sexual health clinics, emergency departments, infectious diseases clinics, genitourinary clinics, dermatology clinics, maternity services, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, and acute care facilities that provide care for patients with suspected or confirmed monkeypox.</p>	<p>Clinical management and infection prevention and control for monkeypox: Interim rapid response guidance, 10 June 2022 (who.int)</p>
<p>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</p>		
<p>Interim advice on risk Communication and Community engagement during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022</p>	<p>This document, jointly produced by WHO Europe and ECDC, is intended for health authorities working on RCCE in the context of the current monkeypox outbreak in Europe. It provides advice on approaches to the communication of risks and engagement of population groups based on the outbreak's epidemiology and context, recommended preventive measures and people's perceptions and behaviour.</p>	<p>https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/interim-advice-risk-communication-and-community-engagement-during-monkeypox</p>
<p>Examples for risk communication and community engagement approaches during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022</p>	<p>This jointly produced document by WHO Europe and ECDC supplements the 'Interim advice on Risk Communication and Community Engagement during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022' by providing examples and concrete approaches for RCCE.</p>	<p>Risk communication and community engagement approaches during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022 (europa.eu)</p>

Trainings, ready-to-use material and operational tools Public health preparedness/risk assessment products

Several resources are available addressing the principles of public health preparedness and risk assessment which can be utilised and adapted as needed for training public health professionals.

Topics	Description of activity	Available guidance related to each training
<p>WHO/ECDC online trainings (completed independently by participants)</p>		
<p>Online course for public health preparedness for mass gathering events</p>	<p>Aim: This course aims to support host nations in delivering a safe and successful event, as part of WHO's ongoing support to countries in strengthening the International Health Regulations capacities for prevention, detection and response to the public health events in the context of hosting Mass Gathering (MG) events, in collaboration with the WHO collaborating centres.</p> <p>The online course will provide an overview of the key steps and considerations that a host country will need to take when planning to host a MG. It consists of one introduction and eight independent technical modules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to Mass Gathering 2. Risk Assessment and Management for Mass Gatherings 3. Legacy and Evaluation 4. The Concept of Operations (ConOps) 5. Surveillance and Alert Systems 6. Incidents and Outbreak Response Management 7. Environmental health considerations and protection of food & water 8. Health Promotion 9. Public information <p>Course duration: 4 to 6 hours Type of MG: all Target audience: mass gatherings organisers</p>	<p>English:</p> <p>To create a user account, future members need to click on "Register" from the homepage of the Health Security Learning Platform https://extranet.who.int/hslp/training/</p> <p>Health Security Learning Platform: BCE курс (who.int)</p> <p>Online course for public health preparedness for mass gathering events (VERSION 1.0 - July 2019) https://extranet.who.int/hslp/training/enrol/index.php?id=135</p>

Key Recommendations on Mass Gatherings

<p>World Health Organization. Public Health for Mass Gatherings: Key Considerations. Geneva, 2015</p>	<p>Aim: This document provides an update to the 'Communicable disease alert and response for mass gatherings: key considerations, June 2008'. This new version builds on the expertise gained across the global mass gathering (MG) community since this was published. It has also been expanded to cover more than communicable diseases and includes new areas such as legacy, environmental health and different contexts such as unplanned mass gatherings (MGs). Legacy has been included here as a key element of the planning for MGs. Leaving a viable public health legacy and sustainable improvements in the health infrastructure and capacity should be a key aim of those involved with preparing for any MG. Legacy can include improvements in the health systems in the host country, improvements in health behaviours, and ability to deliver future.</p> <p>Type of MG: all</p> <p>Target audience: host governments, public health authorities and national or international organisers of mass gatherings.</p>	<p>English: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/public-health-for-mass-gatherings-key-considerations or: https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/162109/WHO_HSE_GCR_2015.5_eng.pdf?sequence=1</p> <p>Russian: https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/312139/9789244564936-rus.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y&ua=1</p>
<p>WHO Mass Gatherings Risk Assessment Tool</p>		
<p>WHO Generic All-Hazards Risk Assessment Tool for Mass Gathering Events ('RA Tool')</p>	<p>the RA Tool supports mass gathering planners and stakeholders through a six-step risk assessment process organised across corresponding modules:</p> <p>Step 1: Identify hazards and describe the scenario most likely to require a coordinated response Step 2: Evaluate likelihood of hazard Step 3: Estimate impact of hazard Step 4: Determine the level of risk associated with the hazard Step 5: Finalise mass gathering preparedness plan Step 6: Implement and communicate mass gathering preparedness plan to relevant stakeholders</p>	<p>WHO mass gathering COVID-19 risk assessment tool – Generic events</p>

Simulation Exercise tools	
Simulation Exercise guidance and off-shelf packages	<p>Simulation Exercise Manual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A practical guide and tool for planning, conducting, and evaluating simulation exercises for outbreaks and public health emergency preparedness and response. • Simulation Exercise off- shelf packages • To support countries' preparedness efforts, the Department of Health Security Preparedness at WHO headquarters has developed various COVID-19 tabletop exercise (TTX) and Drills (DR) packages <p>Simulation Exercise scenarios on Mass gatherings</p>
Simulation Exercise online training	<p>This course is an introduction to simulation exercises and their value as part of wider emergency preparedness to raise awareness among a non-technical audience. The goal of this course is to support the development and management of an effective fit-for-purpose exercise programme, by providing consistent practical guidance and tools on exercise design and implementation.</p>
How to design a Table-top exercise e-learning	<p>In this ECDC e-learning course on how to design a Table-top Exercise (TTX) you will learn the basic concepts on how to design and run a TTX. This course will be especially useful as a primer to people who will be planning, design, conducting and/or evaluating a TTX.</p>
After- Event Review	
WHO guidance and toolkit for conducting After Action Reviews of public health events	<p>The World Health Organization (WHO) developed this guidance document and the accompanying toolkits to assist Member States in planning, preparing, and conducting after action reviews (AARs) for collective learning and operational improvement after a public health response.</p>
	<p>Simulation exercises (who.int)</p> <p>WHO Simulation Exercise Manual</p> <p>Simulation Exercise Management: Introduction OpenWHO</p> <p>How to design a Table-top exercise (EVA Platform) (registration needed)</p> <p>Guidance for after action review (AAR) (who.int)</p> <p>Emergency response reviews (who.int)</p>

<p>WHO Online Training: Management and Facilitation of an After Action Review (AAR)</p>	<p>Overview: This course provides a general introduction to the management and the facilitation of an After Action Review (AAR) following the response to an event of public health concern through interactive presentations and an assessment at the end of the course to test the knowledge acquired. It targets any individuals or entities involved in the preparedness of and response to health emergencies, including IHR NFPs, WHO staff, health professionals and partners.</p> <p>Learning objectives: By the end of this course, participants should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the context and the purpose of an AAR; • Describe the general flow of the AAR process (by using the working group format); • Distinguish roles and responsibilities of facilitators in the AAR process and describe the techniques for participatory facilitation; and • Indicate the resources available for conducting an AAR and know where to find them. <p>Course duration: Approximately 1 hour</p>	<p>Management and Facilitation of an After Action Review (AAR) OpenWHO</p>
<p>Conducting in-action and after-action reviews of the public health response to COVID-19</p>	<p>This document aims to support the implementation of after-action reviews (AARs) and in-action reviews (IARs) focused on the public health response to COVID-19. However, it can be easily modified to address public health response to any outbreak or incident.</p>	<p>https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/conducting-action-and-after-action-reviews-public-health-response-covid-19</p>

Early warning, alert and response (EWAR) and Event- Based Surveillance Products

Event-based surveillance as a component of epidemic intelligence can be used in the periods before, during and after mass gathering events for the detection and reporting of alert signals potentially of importance to public health, usually outside the traditional epidemiological surveillance systems. The following table includes tools by WHO and ECDC, which provide an introduction on how this work is performed.

Epidemic intelligence	
Introduction to epidemic Intelligence	This 25-minute training module is intended for experts involved in or interested in the early warning of acute public health events. https://eva.ecdc.europa.eu/course/vie-w.php?id=519 (English, registration needed)
Epidemic intelligence e-learning course	This self-paced e-learning course (duration 2-4 hours) is designed to target public health professionals interested in performing epidemic intelligence activities with the objective of transmitting basic knowledge about how ECDC conducts its EI activities.
Event based surveillance	
Introduction to Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS)	<p>This course provides an introduction to the EIOS Initiative and the EIOS System. This course provides an orientation of the key features and functionalities of the EIOS System:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain what the EIOS Initiative is and how EIOS fits within the larger PHI framework and supports early warning and detection • Outline the main attributes of the EIOS system • Describe the layout of EIOS and define key terms • Describe an example of how the EIOS features can be used by a public health professional. <p>Create and modify a board in EIOS and articulate how to use search and filter tools to adjust board content</p> <p>Curate a board using flagging, pinning, and communications functions</p> <p>Describe how categories, sources and the EIOS credibility assessment can be used in EIOS.</p>

Early Warning, alert and response to acute public health events	
<p>Early detection, assessment and response to Acute Public Health Events:</p> <p>Implementation of Early Warning and Response with a focus on Event-based Surveillance</p> <p>Interim version</p>	<p>This document provides national health authorities, and the stakeholders supporting them, with guidance for implementing or enhancing Early Warning and Response (EWAR) functions within national surveillance systems, in order to detect and to respond rapidly to all-hazards acute health events and risks. Countries and other stakeholders may want to evaluate and strengthen various features of the EWAR systems in the context of a mass gathering, and in particular as implementation of EWAR requires a multisectoral, multi-disciplinary approach. Partnerships between relevant sectors during a mass gathering are essential to build robust alert and response systems which cover all public health threats and enable rapid mobilization of resources in a flexible and responsive way during an event.</p> <p>http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/112667/WHO_HSE_GCR_LYO_2014.4_eng.pdf;jsessionid=2E046329840C024C0236433F1CE4583B?sequence=1</p>
<p>EWARs in a Box</p>	<p>http://project.ewars.ws</p> <p>'EWARs in a Box' is an early warning, alert and response package that contains all the equipment needed to establish surveillance and response activities, particularly in non-traditional settings where systems and tools are not already in place (e.g. health care provision or first aid centres on site at mass gatherings). However, it can also be used to rapidly scale-up early warning systems in traditional settings, but where no such function exists or already existing systems could be strengthened to respond to special events. The box contains mobile phones, laptops, surveillance tools and a local server to collect, report and manage disease or event data. If needed, it can use solar power to charge the equipment, and a single kit can support surveillance/EWAR for 50 fixed or mobile clinics serving roughly 500 000 people. EWARS in a Box can also be used as a software package without the hardware, taking advantage of available national infrastructure. It is fully customisable to align with national reporting structures and disease priorities. It allows end-to-end routine monitoring, alert, verification, risk assessment, case investigation, line listing, and outbreak monitoring; it is the only tool to feature this end-to-end functionality.</p>
<p>Cross-border sharing of public health data e-learning course</p>	<p>https://eva.ecdc.europa.eu/enrol/index.php?id=262 (English, registration needed)</p> <p>An introductory e-learning course, which aims to provide the participants with a basic understanding of the practical aspects of the legislation that applies to cross-border sharing of public health data. During the course, participants will acquire adequate skills to begin applying the concepts of data protection in their daily work as public health (PH) professionals. The course is particularly useful to PH professionals working in communicable disease surveillance, data collection, data administration and clinical research. While the focus is on EU legislation, the concepts presented may also be relevant in other legal systems</p>

Contact Tracing Products

An essential component of the monkeypox outbreak response is rapid and thorough case investigation and contact tracing. WHO has issued interim guidance on surveillance, case investigation and contact tracing and ECDC has published operational considerations for public health authorities. In addition, specific case and contact forms for the monkeypox outbreak investigation have been included in the Go.data tool to facilitate management and analysis of data on cases and contacts.

Technical tools and advice		
<p>Go.data: tool for outbreak investigation of Monkeypox and other infectious diseases</p>	<p>Aim: The outbreak investigation and response tool Go.data enables collection and analysis of outbreak investigation data. A module specifically for Monkeypox has recently been developed. Through its visualisation feature, Go.Data allows public health authorities to enhance outbreak response activities, particularly by visualising, in real-time, chains of transmission that will facilitate the monitoring of disease progression as well as identifying potential new cases that are missed through undetected circulation of the virus.</p>	<p>Go.Data (who.int)</p> <p>The Go.Data monkeypox outbreak module can be obtained upon request by emailing godata@who.int.</p>
<p>WHO interim guidance: Surveillance, case investigation and contact tracing for Monkeypox</p>	<p>Aim: The key objectives of surveillance and case investigation for monkeypox in the current context are to rapidly identify cases and clusters in order to provide optimal clinical care; to isolate cases to prevent further transmission; to identify and manage contacts; to protect frontline health workers; and to tailor effective control and prevention measures. Contacts should be monitored at least daily for the onset of any signs/symptoms for a period of 21 days from last contact with a patient or their contaminated materials during the infectious period. Quarantine or exclusion from work are not necessary during the contact tracing period as long as no symptoms develop. This guidance outlines the recommendations related to surveillance, case investigation and contact tracing.</p>	<p>Surveillance, case investigation and contact tracing for Monkeypox: Interim guidance (who.int)</p>
<p>Considerations for contact tracing during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022- ECDC</p>	<p>This ECDC document aims to provide interim advice and considerations to public health authorities in the EU/EEA countries conducting contact tracing in the context of the ongoing monkeypox outbreak.</p>	<p>https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/monkeypox-outbreak</p>

Risk Communication and Community Engagement Products

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) strategies are a core element of any outbreak response and are essential to achieve results across all the proposed measures. In the context of the current monkeypox outbreak, ECDC and the WHO Regional Office for Europe have been working with civil society organisations, to produce RCCE advice, support and trainings tools, as well as examples of ongoing RCCE activities in the EU/EEA countries of the WHO Europe Region.

Technical advice	
Risk Communication Toolkit	<p>This toolkit is designed to help organise events in a safe manner and can be a starting point for conversations between local and national health authorities (e.g. Ministry of Health, city department of health, national or local disease control agency, local health authorities) and event organisers, as well as civil society organisations.</p> <p>Monkeypox toolkit for planning and coordination of mass and large gatherings.</p>
Interim advice on Risk Communication and Community Engagement during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022 Joint report by WHO Regional office for Europe/ECDC. 2 June 2022	<p>This document is intended for health authorities working on RCCE in the context of the current monkeypox outbreak in Europe. It provides advice on approaches to the communication of risks and engagement of population groups based on the outbreak's epidemiology and context, recommended preventive measures and people's perceptions and behaviours.</p> <p>Interim advice on Risk Communication and Community Engagement during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022 (2022) (who.int)</p>
Public health advice on the recent outbreak of monkeypox in the WHO European Region. 24 May 2022	<p>This document contains information on how monkeypox spreads, what to do if you think you have symptoms, and how to protect yourself and others. It can be used by community leaders, influencers, health workers and people attending social events and parties to inform and engage with individuals and communities, including gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men.</p> <p>https://www.who.int/europe/publications/m/item/public-health-advice-on-the-recent-outbreak-of-monkeypox-in-the-who-european-region.-24-may-2022</p>
Risk communication and community engagement approaches during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022	<p>The document provides examples and approaches for RCCE, while building on experience from past outbreaks. These examples can be used to inspire countries in the European Region to develop community engagement approaches and risk communication strategies adapted to the national, regional and/or local context and specific target audiences in their response to the ongoing monkeypox outbreak.</p> <p>Risk communication and community engagement approaches during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022 (europa.eu)</p>

Question and Answers	
WHO Europe Q&A	Interview with Dr Richard Pebody of the High-threat Pathogen team at WHO/Europe on the virus, why the outbreak is concerning and what people should do to protect themselves and others from infection. https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/10-06-2022-monkeypox-q-a---what-you-need-to-know-about-monkeypox
ECDC Q&A	Questions and answers on monkeypox https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/monkeypox/questions-and-answers
EFSA Q&A	Questions and answers on monkeypox https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/monkeypox
World Organisation for Animal Health	Questions and answers on monkeypox https://www.woah.org/en/disease/monkeypox/
Community brief	
ECDC: Navigating monkeypox: considerations for gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men	Questions and answers on monkeypox from the community with the Love Tank, PrEPster, and MPACT https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Navigating-monkeypox-considerations-for-gay-bisexual-and-MSM.pdf

Trainings		
<p>WHO SocialNet: Empowering communities before, during, and after an infectious disease outbreak</p>	<p>The aim of this course is to provide an overview of operational concepts in relation to community engagement, risk communication, and the application of social science interventions. This course is designed for health emergency preparedness and response professionals, policy-makers and partners.</p>	<p>https://openwho.org/courses/empowering-communities</p>
<p>WHO Risk Communication Essentials</p>	<p>Risk communication is a core public health intervention in any disease outbreak and health emergency. It refers to the real-time exchange of information, advice and opinions between experts, officials and people who face a threat to their wellbeing, to enable informed decision-making and to adopt protective behaviours. The course is available in Portuguese as well.</p>	<p>https://openwho.org/courses/risk-communication</p>



Risk Communication and Community Engagement
Poster on **monkeypox** symptoms,
transmission and protection

Updated 30 June 2022

Dimension: 42 X 59.4 cm

MONKEYPOX

Learning about monkeypox can help protect you and those close to you.



Updated 30 June 2022

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?

To catch monkeypox, you need skin-to-skin contact, including during sex, with someone infectious or their contaminated belongings.

To reduce the risk of contracting monkeypox:

- practice safer sex.
- keep your hands clean.



WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS I SHOULD LOOK OUT FOR?

- Rash with blisters on any part of the body (starting on mouth, anus or the genitals if transmitted during sex).
- Inflammation and pain in the rectum.
- Swollen lymph nodes. • Fever.

These symptoms can be accompanied by headaches, muscle aches and low energy.



WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SUSPECT I HAVE MONKEYPOX?

- Seek medical advice and get tested, if advised.
- Self-isolate and follow the advice of health authorities.
- Take a break from sex.
- Keep up good hand hygiene.
- Ask your close contacts and sexual partners if they have similar symptoms.



Things are not always what they seem online: scan the QR code to access reliable information from a trusted source.




Monkeypox Toolkit: Social Media Tiles







SET 1: KNOW MONKEYPOX

Social copy:

Here is what you need to know about the [#monkeypox](#) disease in the [@WHO](#) European Region.

Follow the health advice to protect yourself and others from monkeypox 

Social tiles: download link <https://who.canto.global/b/OL9AJ>

<p style="text-align: center;">MONKEYPOX: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Swipe right to learn about MONKEYPOX and health advice to protect yourself and others.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">  European Region</p> <p>Updated 30 June 2022</p>	<p>What are the monkeypox symptoms I should look out for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rash with blisters on any part of the body (starting on mouth, anus or the genitals if transmitted during sex) • Inflammation and pain in the rectum. • Swollen lymph nodes. • Fever. <p>These symptoms can be accompanied by headaches, muscle aches and low energy.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">  European Region</p> <p>Updated 30 June 2022</p>
---	--

<h3>How is monkeypox spread?</h3> <p>To catch monkeypox you need to have close contact with someone who has monkeypox, or with a contaminated object.</p>  <p>Monkeypox spreads most easily during direct skin-to-skin contact – including during sex.</p> <p>Updated 30 June 2022</p> 	<h3>How can I protect myself?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about monkeypox symptoms and how it spreads. Practice safer sex, including limiting the number of sexual partners. Keep your hands clean, using soap and water, or an alcohol-based sanitizer. <p>If you think you are at higher risk of getting monkeypox, contact your health provider to learn how to lower your risk of infection.</p> <p>Updated 30 June 2022</p> 
<h3>What to do if I suspect I have monkeypox?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek medical advice by contacting your health care provider. Get tested for monkeypox, if advised. Self-isolate as much as you can and avoid close contact with others. Take a break from having sex until you have a negative test result. Ask your close contacts and sexual partners if they have similar symptoms.  <p>Updated 30 June 2022</p> 	<h3>What to do if I have monkeypox?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-isolate and follow the advice of health authorities. Avoid contact with pregnant women, young children, and immunocompromised people until you have recovered. Take a break from sex until the last scab has fallen off. Share details of close and sexual contacts with health authorities or inform your contacts yourself. Because of current uncertainties about transmission, wear a condom for 12 weeks even after you have fully recovered. <p>Updated 30 June 2022</p> 

SET 2: RISK COMMUNICATION MESSAGES FOR EVENT ATTENDEES

<p>Social copy:</p>
<p>Planning to attend a summer festival or an event?</p>
<p>Follow the health advice to protect yourself and others from #monkeypox </p>
<p>Social tiles: download link https://who.canto.global/b/HH03G</p>



PLANNING TO ATTEND A SUMMER FESTIVAL OR AN EVENT?

Swipe right to learn about
MONKEYPOX and health
advice to protect yourself
and others



Updated 30 June 2022

Before the event

- Learn more about monkeypox and what to do to protect yourself.
- Don't trust everything you read/see online and only access reliable information from health authorities and international organizations.
- If you have any monkeypox symptoms – typically a rash – take a break from festivals and crowded events and contact your healthcare provider.



Updated 30 June 2022

During the event

Practice safer sex.

Be aware that:

- Multiple and frequent sexual contacts may put you more at risk of monkeypox infection.
- Condoms might not fully prevent infection with monkeypox.
- Sex toys should be kept clean and not shared.



Updated 30 June 2022

During the event

- Be aware of your current health status and if in doubt, take a break from activities that could put others at risk.
- Practice regular hand hygiene.
- Keep up to date with the latest information and advice from health authorities and event organizers.



Updated 30 June 2022

After the event

- If you think you might have monkeypox, contact a health care provider or a sexually transmitted infection (STI) clinic.
- If you notice a new rash with blisters on your partner's body, especially around the genitals or the anus, talk with them, avoid sexual contact, and advise that they contact an STI clinic or health provider.



Updated 30 June 2022

After the event If you are diagnosed with monkeypox

- Self-isolate and follow the advice of your health authorities.
- Take a break from sex, until your symptoms disappear, and the last scab has fallen off.
- Avoid contact with pregnant women, young children, and immunocompromised people until you have recovered.
- Share the details of close and sexual contacts with health authorities or inform your contacts yourself.
- Because of current uncertainties about transmission, wear a condom for 12 weeks even after you have fully recovered.



Updated 30 June 2022



Risk Communication and Community Engagement

Social media messages on **monkeypox** symptoms, transmission and protection

Updated 30 June 2022

Dimension: 1080x1080px

MONKEYPOX: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Swipe right to learn about
MONKEYPOX and health
advice to protect yourself
and others.



Updated 30 June 2022

European Region

What are the monkeypox symptoms I should look out for?

- Rash with blisters on any part of the body (starting on mouth, anus or the genitals if transmitted during sex)
- Inflammation and pain in the rectum.
- Swollen lymph nodes.
- Fever.

These symptoms can be accompanied by headaches, muscle aches and low energy.



How is monkeypox spread?

To catch monkeypox you need to have **close contact with someone who has monkeypox**, or with a contaminated object.



Monkeypox spreads most easily during **direct skin-to-skin contact** – including during sex.



How can I protect myself?



Learn about monkeypox symptoms and how it spreads.



Practice safer sex, including limiting the number of sexual partners.



Keep your hands clean, using soap and water, or an alcohol-based sanitizer.

If you think you are at higher risk of getting monkeypox, contact your health provider to learn how to lower your risk of infection.



What to do if I suspect I have monkeypox?



- Seek medical advice by contacting your health care provider.
- Get tested for monkeypox, if advised.
- Self-isolate as much as you can and avoid close contact with others.
- Take a break from having sex until you have a negative test result.
- Ask your close contacts and sexual partners if they have similar symptoms.

Updated 30 June 2022



What to do if I have monkeypox?

- Self-isolate and follow the advice of health authorities.
- Avoid contact with pregnant women, young children, and immunocompromised people until you have recovered.
- Take a break from sex until the last scab has fallen off.
- Share details of close and sexual contacts with health authorities or inform your contacts yourself.
- Because of current uncertainties about transmission, wear a condom for 12 weeks even after you have fully recovered.





Risk Communication and Community Engagement

Social media messages on **monkeypox** for events' attendees

Updated 30 June 2022

Dimension: 1080x1080px



PLANNING TO ATTEND A SUMMER FESTIVAL OR AN EVENT?

Swipe right to learn about
MONKEYPOX and health
advice to protect yourself
and others.



Updated 30 June 2022

European Region

Before the event

- Learn more about monkeypox and what to do to protect yourself.
- Don't trust everything you read/see online and only access reliable information from health authorities and international organizations.
- If you have any monkeypox symptoms – typically a rash – take a break from festivals and crowded events and contact your healthcare provider.



Before the event

Practice safer sex.

Be aware that:

- Multiple and frequent sexual contacts may put you more at risk of monkeypox infection.
- Condoms might not fully prevent infection with monkeypox.
- Sex toys should be kept clean and not shared.



European Region

During the event

- Be aware of your current health status and if in doubt, take a break from activities that could put others at risk.
- Practice regular hand hygiene.
- Keep up to date with the latest information and advice from health authorities and event organizers.



During the event

- If you think you might have monkeypox, contact a health care provider or a sexually transmitted infection (STI) clinic.
- If you notice a new rash with blisters on your partner's body, especially around the genitals or the anus, talk with them, avoid sexual contact, and advise that they contact an STI clinic or health provider.



After the event

If you are diagnosed with monkeypox

- Self-isolate and follow the advice of your health authorities.
- Take a break from sex, until your symptoms disappear, and the last scab has fallen off.
- Avoid contact with pregnant women, young children, and immunocompromised people until you have recovered.
- Share the details of close and sexual contacts with health authorities or inform your contacts yourself.
- Because of current uncertainties about transmission, wear a condom for 12 weeks even after you have fully recovered.

