



UK Health  
Security  
Agency

# Monkeypox update

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*HIV Prevention England Conference*

30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

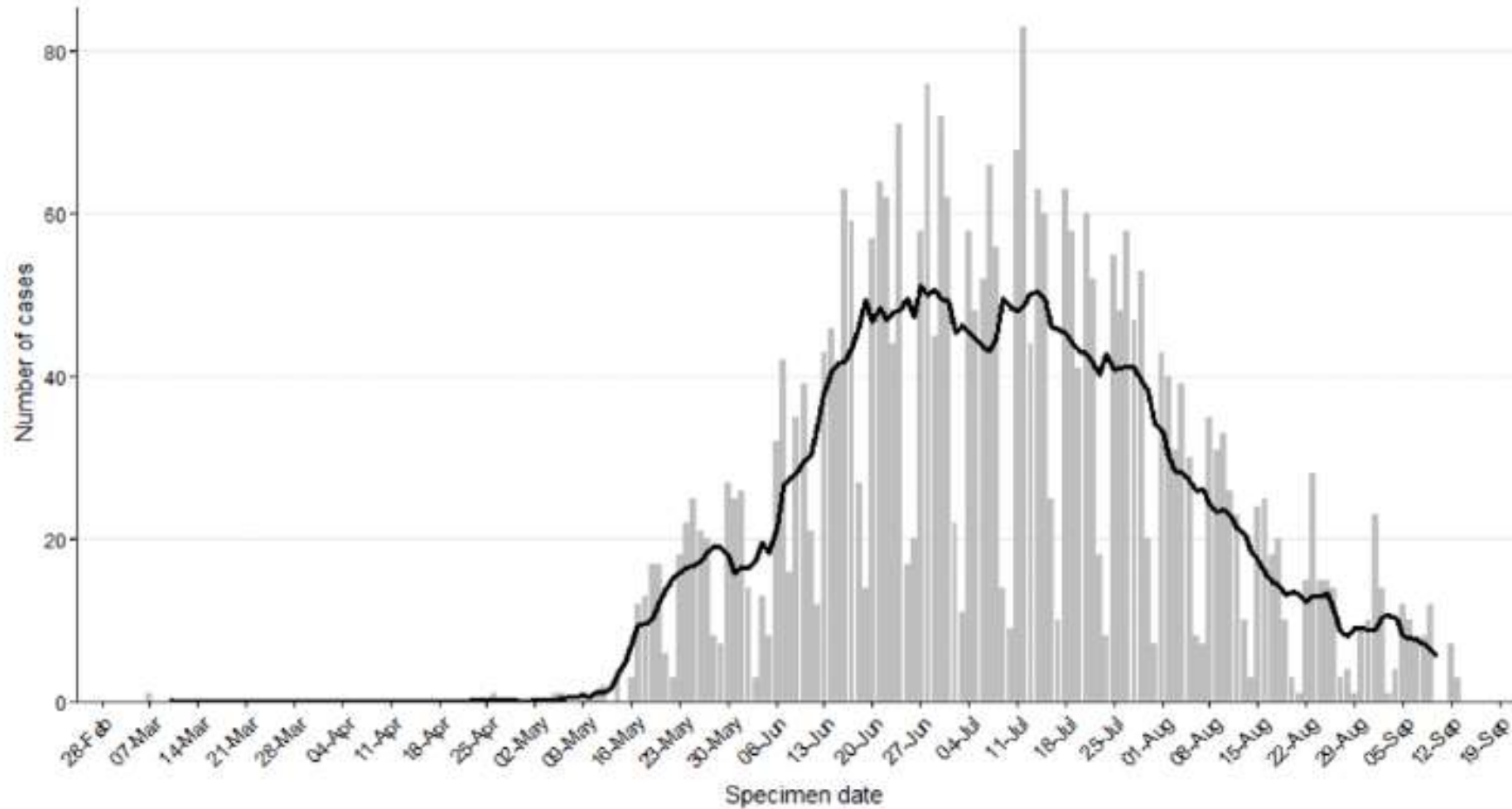
# Objectives

- To present a brief update of the epidemiology of MPX in the UK
- To present an update on the vaccination of GBMSM

# Background

- Monkeypox virus is endemic to some countries of Western and Central Africa
- Travel-associated cases sporadically detected in non-endemic countries
  - Between 2018 and 2021, **7 cases of MPXV** were identified in the UK

# The MPX outbreak is slowing



# Epidemiological summary

- Evidence of **community transmission** in the UK with a **disproportionate incidence among GBMSM**
- Of the 3,585 cases identified between 7<sup>th</sup> May and 16<sup>th</sup> September, the majority are:
  - **Men** (99%)
  - **GBMSM** (97% among those with data on sexual orientation)
  - **London residents** (69% among those with data on residence)
- Links to **gay bars, sex on premises venues and geospatial networking ('dating') apps**
- Only **Clade IIb** of MPXV has been identified to date

# Characteristics of confirmed cases

<b>Metric</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Denominator (excluding cases with missing responses)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Gay, bisexual, or men who have sex with men	983	1,016	96.8%
History of STI in the last year	542	1,029	52.7%
4 to 9 partners in last 3 months	354	1,035	34.2%
10+ sexual partners in last 3 months	299	1,035	28.9%
Living with HIV	257	993	25.9%
Ever used PrEP (among HIV negative)	555	721	77.0%

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# Public health response

- Regular **stakeholder engagement**, public facing **communications and health promotion**
- MPX now designated a **notifiable disease** in England (as of 8<sup>th</sup> June)
- Commenced **pre-exposure vaccination** of GBMSM at high risk of MPX in June



# Stakeholder engagement: health promotion



BASHH Bitesize Free ZOOM

Mateo Prochazka Retweeted  
UK Health Security Agency @UKHSA · 1 Jun  
WATCH •• @teozka gives advice on having a happy, safe and healthy #Pride 🏳️🌈 to everyone celebrating & what people should look out for with #Monkeypox.

Get the latest updates



## Monkeypox:

Important information for London gay venues, promoters, and sex on premises spaces!



[queerhealth.info/monkeypox](https://queerhealth.info/monkeypox)

### A message from the UKHSA on Monkeypox

An outbreak of the Monkeypox virus has been detected in the UK. The virus does not spread easily between people, but it can be passed on through close person-to-person contact or contact with items used by a person who has monkeypox, such as clothes, bedding or sex toys. If you experience unusual sores or rash, contact NHS 111 for support.

[More Info](#)



## Monkeypox and gay men: Separating stigma from health advice

By Lauren Moss, LGBT correspondent & Josh Parr, LGBT producer  
BBC News  
29 May 2022



# Stakeholder engagement: estimates of eligible population

## Consensus statement on response to the monkeypox outbreak

- Consensus estimate of the no. of people eligible for MPX vaccination
  - **111,000**
- Based on:
  - Data reported by SHS to GUMCAD
  - Uplifts to account for GBMSM at high risk of MPX who:
    - do not regularly attend SHS
    - are not in contact with SHS
  - HCWs and outreach workers at increased risk of MPX

# MPX vaccination strategy

- **Developed vaccination strategy** with the focus on preventing further cases and limiting ongoing transmission
  - Used the learning from the 2016/17 Hep A outbreak to **inform the design** and **recommend eligibility criteria** for pre-exposure vaccination of GBMSM
  - Used the experience of HPV vaccination of GBMSM to plan the **procurement/supply processes** and **monitoring** of vaccination
- Used data reported by SHS to the GUMCAD STI Surveillance System to estimate the **distribution of initial supply** of pre-exposure vaccination to SHS
  - Proxy measures of high risk of MPX

# MPX vaccination



**45,049** vaccines administered in total

# MPX vaccination



**45,049** vaccines administered in total

**40,426** pre-exposure vaccines to GBMSM

# PLATINUM Trial



# PLATINUM

Placebo-controlled randomised trial of tecovirimat  
in non-hospitalised monkeypox patients

UK-wide trial of **tecovirimat** for monkeypox; **most people with monkeypox are eligible**

*Remote design with no trial visits, involving:*

- Oral tecovirimat/placebo
- Brief daily symptom diary & weekly swabs for 4 weeks

*Please consider referring your clients:*

- Ask if they're happy to be called by trial team if diagnosis confirmed
- If so, direct them to trial website [PlatinumTrial.org](https://PlatinumTrial.org) > 'For Patients'

*Referral = an email saying:*

- PCR-confirmed monkeypox (and no plan for admission)
- Patient happy to be phoned to discuss trial

Any clinician can refer their clients; no prior involvement needed

Afterwards, all trial procedures are done by trial team, including full eligibility check

**Go to [PlatinumTrial.org](https://PlatinumTrial.org) > 'For Healthcare Workers' for more info & a referral template**

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

PLATINUM  
Placebo-controlled randomised trial of tecovirimat  
in non-hospitalised monkeypox patients

Diagnosed  
with  
monkeypox?

Join the  
PLATINUM Trial

University of Oxford is running a trial to find out if a treatment for monkeypox will help patients who are recovering at home.

Ask your medical team if you are  
eligible and help researchers now

For more information visit our website  
[www.platinumtrial.org](https://www.platinumtrial.org)

V1-02-Aug-22

# Summary

- The monkeypox outbreak is **slowing**
- **Second doses of vaccines** should now be offered to those most at risk of monkeypox, while continuing efforts to **maximise the uptake of first doses**
- SHS are offering **intradermal vaccination to maximise the available supply**
  - 20,000 vaccines received thus far in September
  - Additional 80,000 expected this month

# Thank you

## Acknowledgements:

- Members of the Sexual Health Liaison Group
- GUMCAD team
- Vaccine Cell
- Incident Directors (MPX/UKHSA)
- Claire Dewsnap and colleagues at BASHH
- Alex Sparrowhawk (THT)
- Parminder Sekhon (Naz)
- Will Nutland (PrEPster/the Love Tank)
- Sexual health services



[Home](#) > [News](#) > Monkeypox in the UK

## Monkeypox in the UK

8 June 2022 · [News story](#)

Latest monkeypox information and answers to frequently asked questions about this rare viral infection, including guidance for people living with HIV.

**MONKEYPOX**

**CAN BE PASSED ON  
THROUGH CLOSE CONTACT  
INCLUDING SEX**



# Online resources

**Rolling news story** - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/monkeypox-cases-confirmed-in-england-latest-updates>

**Technical briefings** - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/monkeypox-outbreak-technical-briefings>

**Guidance: cleaning sex on premises venues** - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/monkeypox-cleaning-sex-on-premises-venues>

**THT – Monkeypox in the UK** - <https://www.tht.org.uk/news/monkeypox-uk>