

# Monkeypox: continuing transmission in interconnected sexual networks

The latest UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) [technical briefing](#) on the current UK monkeypox outbreak shows no signs of a decline in the outbreak. In line with global observations, there is no evidence of sustained transmission beyond these networks.

The outbreak continues to grow and information from cases strongly suggests the virus is passing primarily via close or sexual contact. UKHSA Health Protection teams in all regions of England continue to identify and risk assess close contacts of confirmed cases.

The majority of people with monkeypox can be safely managed at home and there have been no deaths in the UK. Most people experience mild disease but it can cause a significant illness in some that requires hospitalisation, including severe pain.

A vaccination programme is beginning, and sexual health services will offer the vaccine to anyone considered to be at higher risk of exposure. This includes people with a recent history of multiple partners, participating in group sex, attending sex on premises venues, or have recently had a bacterial sexually transmitted infection.

Up to 6 July 2022, there were 1,517 laboratory confirmed cases in the UK. The median age of confirmed cases in the UK was 36 years old. In England, 99% of cases are male and 74% are known to be London residents. 16% (226) of England cases reported recent foreign travel, with 176 of these reporting travel within Europe.

The briefing includes a breakdown of events that cases reported attending, 572 in total. 17% of those who provided information had been to a sex-on-premises venue and while this does not confirm transmission occurred there, UKHSA continues to conduct outreach work with event organisers and to provide guidance on how to minimise risk across a range of settings.

Dr Meera Chand, Director of Clinical and Emerging Infections, UKHSA said:

It's concerning that we are continuing to see the outbreak grow and we urge the public to do all they can to help us slow the spread.

If you've recently had new or multiple sexual partners, please be vigilant to the symptoms of monkeypox, and be aware that many of the cases we're seeing are finding only a single, or few, lesions.

If you are concerned that you may have monkeypox, take a break from events, meeting with friends or having sexual contact. Instead, stay at home and contact 111 or your local sexual health service for advice. Please contact the clinic ahead of your visit and avoid

close contact with others until you've been reviewed by a clinician.

To assist with our contact tracing, we encourage everyone to ensure they exchange contact details with sexual partners.

If you are called forward for vaccination, we strongly recommend that you take it.

UKHSA will continue to publish regular technical briefings as the response to the outbreak continues.

Latest UK case numbers are available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).