

# MONKEYPOX ACTION CARD

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<b>RE:</b>	Monkeypox Virus – actions to be taken if Monkeypox is suspected

This applies to all staff in all departments, though will be primarily be applicable to staff in admission areas including the Emergency Departments.

## **Background:**

Monkeypox is a zoonotic orthopoxvirus with similar symptoms and presentation to smallpox – albeit with lower mortality. It primarily occurs in Central and West Africa.

UKHSA confirmed on 7 May 2022 that an individual had been diagnosed with Monkeypox in England. The patient had a recent travel history from Nigeria, which is where they are believed to have contracted the infection, before travelling to the UK.

Monkeypox is a rare viral infection that does not spread easily between people. The infection can be spread when someone is in close contact with an infected person and there is very low risk of transmission to the general population.

If someone gets infected with Monkeypox, it usually takes between 5 and 21 days for the first symptoms to appear. The first symptoms of Monkeypox include:

- A high temperature
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Backache
- Swollen glands
- Shivering (chills)
- Exhaustion
- Joint pain

A rash usually appears 1 to 5 days after the first symptoms. The rash often begins on the face, then spreads to other parts of the body. The rash is sometimes confused with Chickenpox. It starts as raised spots, which turn into small blisters filled with fluid. These blisters eventually form scabs which later fall off. Some patients have also presented with an initial diagnosis of tonsillitis and/or proctitis.

Guidance can be found on the .gov website here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/monkeypox>

## Emergency Preparedness Resilience Response (EPRR) & Incident Control Centre (ICC)

### **Process:**

For any suspected cases of Monkeypox that attend an area at Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, staff will need to follow the below process:

- **If the patient has recently travelled from/in Africa, then will need to** follow the Trusts' High Consequence Infectious Diseases Policy for Initial Management and Investigation of Possible Cases, found here: <http://www.treatmentpathways.worcsacute.nhs.uk/infection-control-key-documents/>
- The patient will need to be isolated in a negative pressure room if available – ED Ebola Room.
- Contact the On Call Microbiologist for advice on testing.
- In hours: Inform the Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) Team and the Incident Control Room (ICC).
- Out of hours: Inform the On Call Senior Manager/Exec On Call.

### **Reference:**

1. CAS Alert issue date: 16-May-2022, reference CEM/CMO/022/008
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/monkeypox-cases-confirmed-in-england-latest-updates>
3. WAHT High Consequence Infectious Diseases Policy for Initial Management and Investigation of Possible Cases
4. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/B1794-Management-of-laboratory-confirmed-monkeypox-infections-6-July-2022.pdf>

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