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**MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS'
NEWSLETTER
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Monkeypox Update #3

Epidemiology

- Since May 2022, cases of monkeypox have been reported in many countries where the virus does not normally spread. This includes BC, and two cases have been identified in Island Health.
- Evidence from within Canada and other countries is that transmission is predominantly through close prolonged physical contact, such as sexual activity. In the UK where more than 1500 cases have been identified, there are no confirmed instances of airborne transmission and only limited household transmission has been detected (source: bit.ly/3IHWQvY)
- Most known cases globally and in Canada are among 20-50 year olds who identify as gay, bisexual, or as other men who have sex with men.

Vaccination

- Island Health is initiating a vaccination campaign for those at highest risk of acquiring and transmitting monkeypox. Please refer patients who meet the criteria below to bit.ly/vihampx for information on booking:
 - At least 18 years old and identify as gay, bisexual, or as other men who have sex with men, or identify as transgender, as well as at least one of the following:
 - Have received a diagnosis of bacterial STI in the past 2 months
 - Have had 2 or more sexual partners within the past 21 days
 - Have attended venues or other locations for sexual contact within the past 21 days (e.g., bath houses, sex clubs, park play) or may be planning to
 - Have had anonymous/casual sex in the past 21 days (e.g., using apps, online sites, formal/informal gatherings) or may be planning to
 - Engage in sex work or may be planning to, either as a worker or a client

Testing and Reporting

- Information on clinical presentation, testing, and management is at bit.ly/mpxbccdc
- Probable cases, currently defined below, must be reported to facilitate case and contact management. This definition will be updated at bit.ly/mpxprobable.
 - A person of any age who presents with an unexplained acute rash or lesion(s) AND has one or more of:
 - An epidemiological link to a probable or confirmed monkeypox case
 - Recent travel to a location where monkeypox is reported
- Report all probable cases to Island Health Communicable Disease Prevention & Control to facilitate case and contact management:
 - South Island: 250-388-2225; Central Island: 250-740-2615;
North Island: 250-331-8555; Afterhours (MHO on-call): 1-800-204-6166