

May 20, 2022

To: Saskatchewan Health Authority – Practitioner Staff, Nursing Staff and Laboratory Managers
Saskatchewan Medical Health Officers

Dear Colleagues:

Re: **Reporting suspected cases of monkeypox**

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is working with provinces and territories to investigate reports of potential cases of monkeypox in Canada.

Public health authorities and clinicians in Canada are advised to be vigilant and to consider monkeypox in their differential diagnosis of patients presenting with unusual rash, plus other clinical signs consistent with monkeypox (e.g. fever, headache, and/or lymphadenopathy).

If you suspect a case please notify your local Medical Health Officer (MHO), local Infectious Disease specialist and Microbiologist on Call to facilitate testing at the provincial Roy Romanow Provincial Lab (RRPL).

Standard contact and droplet precautions should be applied in all healthcare settings when a patient presents with fever and rash. In addition, because of the theoretical risk of airborne transmission of monkeypox virus, airborne precautions should be applied whenever possible. If a patient presenting for care at a hospital or other health care facility is suspected of having monkeypox, infection control personnel should be notified immediately.

Pursuant to *The Disease Control Regulations* (Saskatchewan), “monkeypox” is hereby designated by the Chief Medical Health Officer as an emerging communicable disease. All suspected cases must be reported by telephone within 48 hours to the local MHO.

The local MHO will require the following information:

- patient's name (for communication purposes);
- patient's age;
- health services number;
- attending physician; and,
- suspected diagnosis (i.e., monkeypox)

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The MHO will facilitate a public health investigation of the case.

Your cooperation with this surveillance is important and appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local MHO.

Sincerely,



Dr. Julie Kryzanowski
Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer

cc: Dr. Jessica Minion, Medical Director, Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory,
Saskatchewan Health Authority
Dr. Susan Shaw, Chief Medical Officer, Saskatchewan Health Authority
Sharon Garratt, Chief Nursing Officer, Saskatchewan Health Authority
Lesley Mclean, Director, Quality Safety and Strategy (Infection Prevention and
Control), Saskatchewan Health Authority
Vanessa Vervek, Director, Provincial Programs (811 HealthLine), Saskatchewan
Health Authority
Tami Denomie, Executive Director, Population Health Branch, Ministry of Health