# Monkeypox contact tracing guidance: classification of contacts and advice for vaccination and follow up

**What this guidance is for**

This guidance provides principles for risk assessment and follow up of contacts of confirmed monkeypox cases. It is intended to support risk assessment and categorisation of contacts to ensure they are offered appropriate isolation advice and vaccination.

Further information on Monkeypox is available online.

## Exposure risk category | Description | Risk | Surveillance | Recommendation for PEP | Example scenarios | Information sheets
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
3 | Unprotected direct contact or high risk environmental contact | High | Active monitoring
Provide information and contact number
Daily communication with contact for 21 days after last exposure
Self-isolation for 21 days, including exclusion from work
No travel permitted
Avoid contact with immunosuppressed people, pregnant women, and children aged under 12 where possible | Offer MVA-BN vaccine (Imvanex®), ideally within 4 days (up to a maximum 14 days) | Body fluid in contact with eyes, nose, or mouth
Penetrating sharps injury from used needle
Contact in room during aerosol-generating procedure without appropriate respiratory PPE
Changing a patient’s bedding without appropriate PPE
Sexual contact
Household contact | See active follow up category 3 information sheet
See monkeypox isolation for symptomatic contacts sheet

2 | Unprotected exposure to infectious materials including droplet or airborne potential route | Medium | Active monitoring
Provide information and number to contact
Daily communication with contact for 21 days after last exposure
Avoid contact with immunosuppressed people, pregnant women and children aged under 12 where possible
Exclude from work for 21 days if work involves contact with immunosuppressed people, pregnant women or children | Offer PEP with MVA-BN vaccine (Imvanex®), ideally within 4 days (up to a maximum 14 days) | Clinical examination of patient before diagnosis without appropriate PPE
Entering patient’s room without wearing appropriate PPE and within 1 metre of case
Driver and passengers in shared car or taxi with case, or sitting next to case on plane
Subsequent patients in consulting room after a confirmed case was seen and prior to room cleaning | See active follow up category 2 information sheet
If symptoms develop see monkeypox isolation for symptomatic contacts sheet

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1 This includes:
- Inhalation of droplets or dust from cleaning contaminated rooms
- Mucosal exposure to splashes
- Penetrating sharps injury from contaminated device or through contaminated gloves
- People who normally share a residence (either on a permanent or part time basis) with a person who has been diagnosed with monkeypox, and who have spent at least 1 night in the residence during the period when the case is infectious

2 Immunosuppressed people include people with certain types of cancer, HIV, and other infections. Pregnant women and children under 12 years old are also in the high risk category.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Exposure risk category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Risk</th>
<th>Surveillance</th>
<th>Recommendation for PEP</th>
<th>Example scenarios</th>
<th>Information sheets</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1-B</strong> Protected physical or droplet exposure</td>
<td>Not category 3 or 2 but: Contact with confirmed monkeypox case or environment contaminated with monkeypox while wearing appropriate PPE¹ (with no known breaches)</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Passive monitoring</td>
<td>Offer PEP with MVA-BN vaccine (Imvanex³), ideally within 4 days (up to a maximum 14 days)</td>
<td>Healthcare staff working in HCID specialist unit wearing appropriate PPE¹</td>
<td>See passive follow up information sheet</td>
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<td>Person undertaking decontamination of rooms where a confirmed case has stayed, while wearing PPE¹</td>
<td>If symptoms develop see monkeypox isolation for symptomatic contacts sheet</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1-A</strong> No physical contact, unlikely droplet exposure</td>
<td>Not category 3, 2 or 1B but: Community contact between 1 and 3 metres of a symptomatic case OR Healthcare worker (HCW) involved in care of monkeypox case not wearing appropriate PPE¹ for contact between 1 and 3 metres and has had no direct contact with contaminated objects OR Passengers seated within 3 rows from case on plane</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Passive monitoring</td>
<td>PEP not usually required</td>
<td>Staff entering patient room without PPE¹ AND a. without direct contact with patient or their body fluids and b. maintaining a distance of more than 1 metre from patient</td>
<td>See passive follow up information sheet</td>
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<td>Passengers who have been seated within 3 rows, but not directly next to, a case on plane.</td>
<td>If symptoms develop see monkeypox isolation for symptomatic contacts sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>0</strong> No contact</td>
<td>Not category 3, 2 or 1A or 1B: No known contact with symptomatic monkeypox case in last 21 days OR Passengers seated more than 3 rows away from case on plane OR Laboratory staff operating to UK standards handling specimens relating to a monkeypox case</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>PEP not required</td>
<td>Passengers seated away from case on plane (that is, more than 3 rows away)</td>
<td>See general information sheet</td>
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<td>Staff handling specimens in a UK laboratory to UK standards</td>
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**Notes**

¹ Full PPE includes as a minimum: FFP3 respirator, long sleeved gown, gloves and eye protection as per the National infection prevention and control manual for England (page 57).

² Severely immunosuppressed patients, as per Green Book definition and includes those with: solid organ cancer, haematological disease and/or stem cell transplant, Child’s-Pugh class B or C liver cirrhosis, stage 4 or 5 chronic kidney disease, immune mediated inflammatory disorders (including neurological and rheumatological conditions) treated with B-cell depleting therapy within 12 months, uncontrolled HIV, solid organ transplant recipients.

³ If MVA-BN vaccine (Imvanex³) in short supply then follow prioritisation advice.

⁴ Data on median incubation periods for monkeypox is limited and may be influenced by factors including type of exposure. This guidance may be subject to revision as further data is accrued.