



MONKEYPOX RESOURCES & SUPPORT LGBTQ ENGAGEMENT TALKING POINTS

October 31, 2022

Local and National Trends

- **Current case numbers in Montana can be found on the [DPHHS website](#)**
 - Most of those cases are among the men who have sex with men (MSM) population
- **National data and trends can be found on the [CDC website](#)**
 - Although cases trends are declining, monkeypox remains a threat to public health, especially among the MSM population
- **Who is being impacted and why?**
 - MSM (gay, bisexual, straight, cis and trans men) continue to be overrepresented in case counts – even though anyone, regardless of orientation, can contract monkeypox
 - There isn't a biological reason for this overrepresentation – it's behavioral / social and associated with the ways that monkeypox is spread – close contact, often sexual contact
 - It's important to note that naming who is being impacted and how they're being exposed is not homophobic; ignoring the groups that are experiencing the highest rates of the illness and not talking frankly and honestly about how it's happening is the real stigmatizing threat and homophobic in itself.
 - So, what can we do to work to limit the impact of monkeypox in Montana?

What We Can Do

- **Direct messaging to at-risk populations**
 - [Resources from MTPHI \(one pager and social media carousel\)](#)
 - Other examples: look for opportunities to share resources / messaging at local LGBTQ+ events; use platforms like Grindr to share information
 - [Check out the resource on reducing stigma in monkeypox communication and community engagement from the CDC.](#)



- **Build coalitions and partnerships**

- Some examples:

- [Montana Gay Health Task Force \(monkeypox resources\)](#)
- [The Center | Western MT LGBTQ+ Community Center](#)
- [Queer Bozeman](#)
- Missoula Monkeypox Coalition

- **Build skills around inclusive language**

- Take the time to educate yourself and your team on LGBTQ+ related terminology.

- If you're doing outreach and serving queer folks, it's important to have (at the very least) an understanding of what all the letters stand for and what they represent. [Check out GLAAD's glossary of terms as a helpful starting point.](#)
- The LGBTQ+ community is comprised of folks of different sexes assigned at birth, gender identities, and sexual orientations. [Check out this resource from Planned Parenthood to help understand the differences between sex, gender, and gender identity.](#)

- Only ask necessary questions, avoid using stigmatizing language, and mirror the terms your clients use.

- As with all types of healthcare, it's important to only ask the questions that are needed and not the ones you might be curious about. If you need to know if someone is at increased risk for monkeypox, ask questions related to that, but don't get into the specific behaviors, individual encounters, etc. if you don't need to.
- Also, be clear about why you are asking certain questions.
- Work hard to not perpetuate shame or stigma around sexual activity.
- Mirror the way the client refers to themselves. For instance, if someone says they are queer, it would be inappropriate to use the terms gay or homosexual when talking to or about the client.

- Use non-sensationalistic language, and focus education on harm reduction strategies.

- Talk about the real risk and avoid only talking about or showing images of the most advanced presentations of monkeypox.
- Instead of saying "don't have sex until 2 weeks after you second vaccine", use words like "try and limit" or "talk with your partners" or "change / wash sheets and clothing after sex" etc.



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MONKEYPOX RESOURCES & SUPPORT

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TRENDS



- **SEVEN CONFIRMED CASES**
- **CASE COUNTS DECLINING NATIONALLY**
- **MSM STILL DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED**

MESSAGING

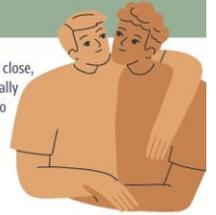
CREATE
MESSAGING THAT
SPEAKS TO THE
POPULATION,
AND PUT IT
PLACES WHERE
THE POPULATION
WILL SEE IT.

Monkeypox vaccines are available in Montana.

Contact your local health department to find out more.



Monkeypox is spread through close, personal, and often skin-to-skin contact. If you're sexually active, you can reduce your chances of being exposed to monkeypox by temporarily changing some of your behaviors until you're fully vaccinated:



Limit your number of sexual partners.

Use condoms (latex or polyurethane) and/or gloves (latex, polyurethane or nitrile). This won't protect you fully, since monkeypox rash can occur on any part of the body, but may protect you from exposure.

Keep distance when masturbating together, without touching each other and without touching any rash.

Reduce skin-to-skin contact as much as possible by having sex with your clothes on or covering areas where rash is present. Leather or latex gear provides a barrier to skin-to-skin contact, just be sure to change or clean clothes / gear between partners and after use.

Wash your hands, fetish gear, sex toys and any fabrics (bedding, towels, clothes) after having sex.

Talk with your partner(s) about any monkeypox symptoms. If you or your partner(s) have recently had monkeypox symptoms, or have a new or unexplained rash anywhere on your body, don't have sex, avoid large gatherings, and call your healthcare provider or health department.



These temporary changes will help slow the spread of monkeypox and reduce your risk of being exposed until you're fully vaccinated. Monkeypox vaccines are available, and your protection will be highest two weeks after your second dose. Call your health department to schedule a vaccine appointment.



LGBTQ Events (MPOX Outreach) (View Only) :



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	Organization	Event Name	Event Date	Start Time	Community	County
1	Queer Bozeman	Bright - Halloween Dance Party	10/29/22	8 p.m.	Bozeman	Gallatin
2	The Center	Rocky Horror Picture Show	10/29/22	8 p.m. & 11 p.m.	Missoula	Missoula
3	Glacier Queer Alliance	Drag Show	11/19/22	TBD	Kalispell	Flathead
4	UM Lamda Alliance	Fall Colors Drag Show	11/12/22	7 p.m.	Missoula	Missoula
5						

**GOOD PUBLIC
HEALTH WORK
DEPENDS ON STRONG
AND DIVERSE
PARTNERSHIPS.**

INCLUSIVITY

1

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2

Only ask necessary questions, avoid using stigmatizing language, and mirror the terms your clients use.

3

Use non-sensationalistic language, and focus education on harm reduction strategies.

THANKS!



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