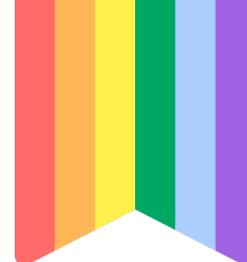


# Monkeypox Guidance for Bathhouses, Circuit and Fetish Parties



Monkeypox (mpox, MPV) cases are increasing in Canada and globally. It can affect anyone of any gender identity or sexual orientation, however, this outbreak has particularly impacted men in the 2SGBTQ+ community. Some cases have reported visiting bathhouses or parties, although it is not yet known if transmission occurred at these venues. Cancelling or otherwise limiting access to bathhouses and parties is not recommended for reducing the spread of monkeypox. This document provides recommendations that bathhouses and private event planners may use as precautions to reduce the likelihood of monkeypox transmission at their venue.

## About Monkeypox

Monkeypox is an uncommon disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. It can spread from person to person through close contact with skin lesions, respiratory droplets, and mucous membranes (such as mouth, anus, and genitals) of a person with monkeypox.

The most commonly reported symptoms have been:

- Flu-like symptoms such as fever, chills, fatigue or body aches
- Skin lesions like sores or blisters that can occur before or after flu-like symptoms

Note that many people may experience symptoms differently. For example, most people develop lesions, but not everyone. Some people develop lesions but experience no flu-like symptoms. If lesions do appear, they may or may not be painful, may be few or many, and are often found on the hands, anus and genital regions.

## Be aware of how monkeypox can spread through sex.

Sexual activities for most people involves close contact where transmission can occur such as:

- Anal, genital and oral sex, and/or by touching (e.g. fingering, rimming)
- Hugging, massaging, kissing or making out for prolonged (> 1 hr) periods of time
- Having contact with bedding, clothing or other items (e.g. towels, sex toys) that have been used by someone with monkeypox

## Promote actions that help guests reduce their chances of getting monkeypox through sex.

Inform guests of personal actions they can take to prevent exposure:

- Watch out for new symptoms, and be aware of signs and symptoms in others
- Take a break from sex and stay home if you are not feeling well
- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Get vaccinated against monkeypox, if eligible
- Use towels to cover porous surfaces like wood or cloth that would otherwise touch skin
- Leave personal sex toys at home

Other actions to take include:

- Although condoms offer protection against sexually transmitted infections, and are encouraged, they are not sufficient to protect against monkeypox if there is contact with lesions on other parts of the body.
- Encourage guests to keep contact details of sexual partners or other close contacts. This information may help with contact tracing and partner notification.
- Promote safer or different ways of doing kink and fetish that reduces skin-on-skin contact.
- Check out and share the fact sheet on [Monkeypox Recommendations for 2SGBTQ+ communities](#) and the [SmartSexResource on Monkeypox: Safer Socializing and Sex.](#)

### **Wash surfaces and materials that come into contact with skin or bodily fluids.**

In addition to your current cleaning protocols:

- Increase cleaning of highly touched surfaces, ideally at least twice in an eight-hour shift. This may include:
  - Glory holes
  - Sex furniture such as fuck benches, slings, and sex pads
  - Douche equipment such as nozzles, spouts, support bars, and drains
  - Saunas, hot tubs, gym equipment, lounge area, lockers, and laundry hampers
- Remove or cover any porous materials or surfaces such as cloth or wood.
- Wear gloves and a medical mask while cleaning (single-use options are best), as well as long sleeve shirts and long pants to avoid skin contact with contaminated surfaces.
- Wash hands carefully every time after cleaning anything.
- Change bed linen and towels after each use.
- Try not to agitate used linens and towels; carry in a receptacle, not hugged to your body.
- Wash used linens and towels in 60°C hot water with normal laundry soap, then dry with hot air until completely dry.
- Most domestic washers do not reach this high so additional hot water can be heated separately and added into the wash basin to a top-loading washer.

#### ***A Note about Cleaning & Monkeypox:***

Monkeypox virus is harder to kill than the virus that causes COVID-19. It can survive for a longer time when dried onto surfaces. It can spread from contaminated surfaces to people, so more surface cleaning is a good idea. You can kill the virus with:

- Household cleaners containing chloroxyleneol
- A 0.5% solution of household bleach (1 part bleach, 9 parts water)
  - Use caution when diluting bleach. Use the FoodSafe bleach dilution calculator: [foodsafety.ca/dilution-calculator.html](https://foodsafety.ca/dilution-calculator.html)
- 70% isopropyl alcohol in water but must be made fresh to retain efficacy

Other actions you can take include:

- Stock up your vending machines with single-use options. Items should be disposed of after each use and sharing should be discouraged.
- If sharing of sex toys does happen, disinfect properly after use - first wash with soap and water, then submerge in 70% isopropyl alcohol for 5 minutes to disinfect, dry with a clean paper towel, and then cover with a condom before using again.