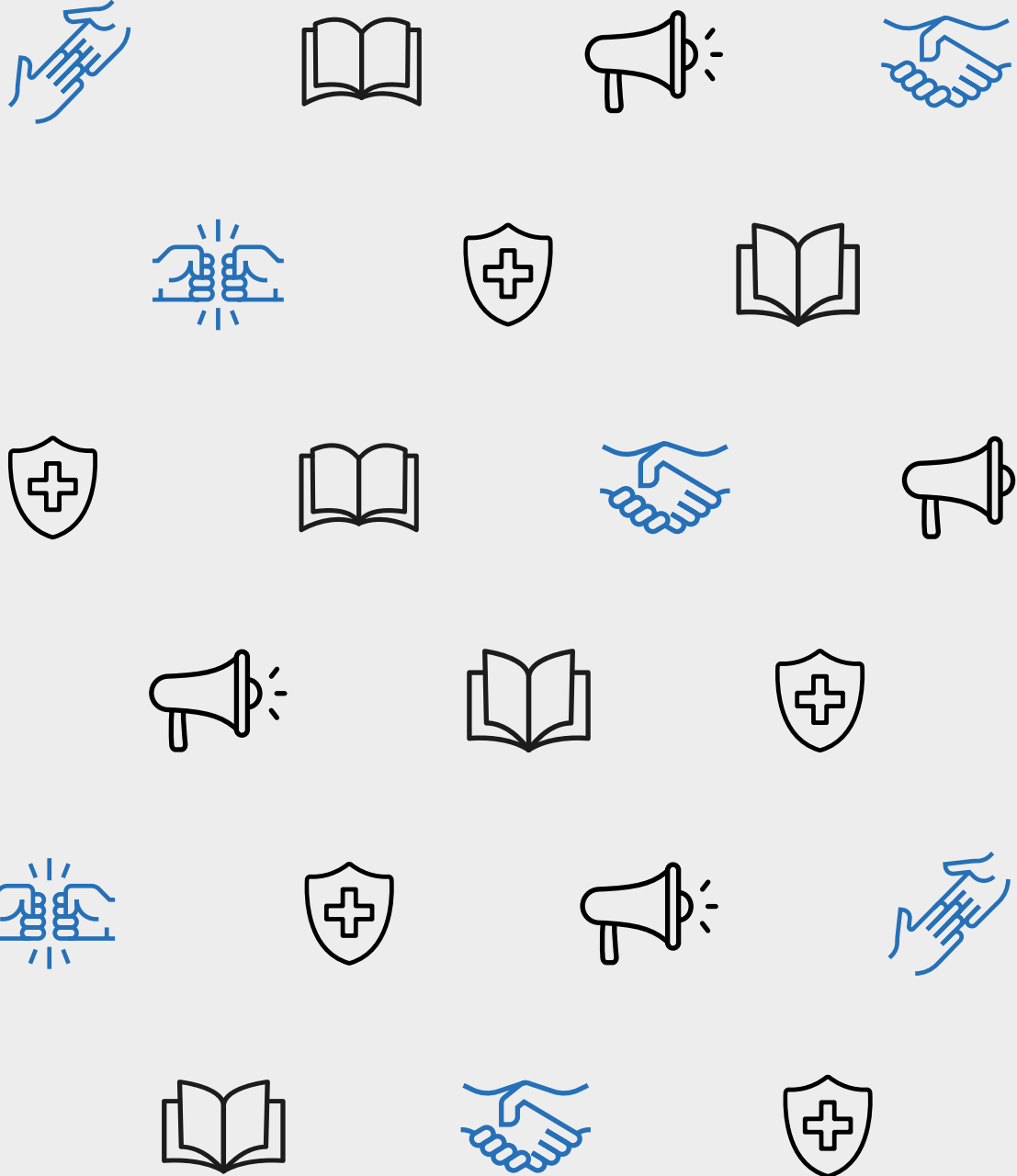


MPOX COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY

A guide to strengthen mpox (monkeypox) education, health services and advocacy for gay and bisexual men

March 2023



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INTRODUCTION

Mpox (monkeypox) is a viral disease that has been endemic in areas of west and central Africa for years. In 2022, an international mpox outbreak started in countries where the disease is not endemic. By the end of December 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) had accounted for more than 83,000 cases across 110 countries. Among the ten most affected countries, there are four Latin American countries: Mexico, Brazil, Colombia and Peru.

The current mpox outbreak remains highly concentrated among gay and bisexual men and has been spreading through sexual relationships. There have also been cases among cisgender and transgender women, as well as heterosexual men, but these remain uncommon. The number of cases have decreased globally, but we are not sure if this is because many people became infected and/or got the vaccine, or due to changes in behavior.

Many governments in the global south have acted slowly to respond to this outbreak and many are not acting at all. We are seeing weak efforts to disseminate evidence-based information, scale up testing, purchase

BY THE END OF DECEMBER 2022

>83,000 CASES
PRIMARILY AMONG
GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN

ACROSS **110 COUNTRIES**



4 OUT OF THE 10 MOST
AFFECTED COUNTRIES
ARE IN **LATIN AMERICA**

and distribute vaccines, and provide adequate medical care to gay and bisexual men who are being diagnosed with mpox. This might be related to the fact that this outbreak is small compared to the COVID-19 pandemic, but institutional homophobia is also playing a role in governmental inaction.

The objective of this document is to support governments, community-led organizations and healthcare organizations working with gay and bisexual men in the global south, particularly in Latin America, by giving them key insights and recommendations about mpox to strengthen:



Our recommendations are based on best practices identified by reviewing educational materials and by conducting interviews with experts and advocates who are doing relevant work in this area.

There are several lessons learned from the HIV/AIDS pandemic that apply to the current situation that gay and bisexual men are facing with mpox, which will be outlined throughout the document. Among them:

- The importance of allowing the community to lead the public health response.
- Tailoring educational messages to themes that are relevant to gay and bisexual men's sexuality.
- Leveraging communication channels and spaces that reach directly to gay and bisexual men.
- The importance of strengthening the capacity of healthcare providers.
- The need to fight institutional homophobia across governments.

The international mpox outbreak has rapidly evolved since it started in 2022 and this document includes data, evidence, and resources available as of December 2022.

METHODOLOGY

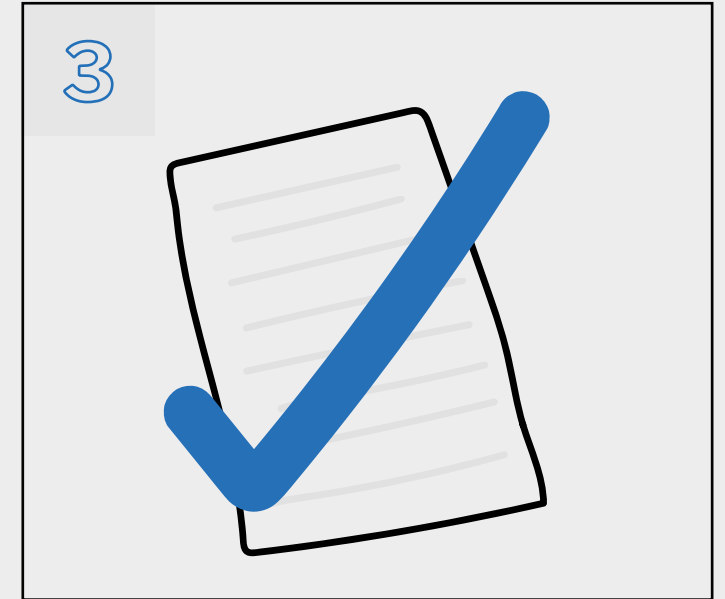
This guide was created through the following steps:



We conducted a short review of mpox educational materials (in both English and Spanish), that have been developed by organizations and governments, and identified common themes and gaps.



We conducted interviews with a group of public health experts who complemented the insights we obtained from the review of educational materials. These experts also contributed with recommendations.



The draft of the guide was then reviewed by the interviewed experts, three additional experts and members of the Global Advisory Board for Sexual Health and Wellbeing (GAB). Feedback was integrated and the document was finalized.

ABOUT

DEVELOPING TEAM

- The guide was produced by the Global Advisory Board for Sexual Health and Wellbeing and ACU Innovation & Consulting
- The guide was written and developed by Dr. Antón Castellanos Usigli
- Graphic design by Julia Ferragamo
- The project was funded by Reckitt
- Jose Antonio Lozano coordinated the project at Reckitt
- Lydia Martin from APCO Worldwide provided editing feedback

INTERVIEWED EXTERNAL EXPERTS

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- Dr. Ken Mayer, Medical Research Director, The Fenway Institute
- Dr. Ricardo Baruch Domínguez, Senior Advocacy Officer, Fòs Feminista
- Dr. Rubén Mayorga Sagastume, Chief, HIV, TB and STIs Unit, Pan American Health Organization

EXTERNAL REVIEWERS

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- Dr. Julia Fleming, Medical Director for Public Health Programs, Fenway Health
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GLOBAL ADVISORY BOARD FOR SEXUAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING (GAB)

The Global Advisory Board for Sexual Health and Wellbeing (GAB) was established in 2016 to advocate for a positive and inclusive approach to sexuality. We are an independent group that has come together in recognition of the lack of equal attention to sexual health, sexual rights and sexual pleasure in research, education, training, policies and programs, regarding sexuality. This GAB aims to highlight the importance of considering sexual health, sexual rights and sexual pleasure equally and to provide a call to action to global organizations, policy makers, NGOs and governments to achieve a rights-based perspective on sexuality in policy, law, practice and research.



gab-shw.org

ACU INNOVATION & CONSULTING

We are a New York City-based consulting firm specialized in healthcare strategy, innovation, evaluation, quality improvement, inclusivity, multi-sectoral partnerships, and patient insights.



acuinnovationconsulting.com

SUGGESTED CITATION

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Strengthening Education and Information



**The importance of
communication that
is relevant to gay
and bisexual men**

Gay and bisexual men are the most affected and transmission is primarily happening through sexual relationships



- The current mpox outbreak is highly concentrated among gay and bisexual men. Months into this outbreak, and the trend remains the same.
- Gay and bisexual men are primarily getting mpox through sexual relationships, particularly oral and anal intercourse. However, intimate body-to-body contact is sufficient for transmission to happen and in rare cases, shared bedding and towels have been associated with transmission.
- People living with HIV are at higher risk of developing a severe disease.

- Some organizations and governments have promoted generic messages about mpox transmission that do not focus on sexual transmission between gay and bisexual men. Others have promoted messages that are more applicable to COVID-19 prevention.
- These messages just contribute to misinformation and prevent providers from designing services that fit the needs of gay and bisexual men.

 **Lessons from the HIV/AIDS pandemic indicate that educational materials created by the community for the community, depicting gay and bisexual men and reflecting themes that are relevant to their sexuality, tend to be more effective.**



“I saw an educational resource from Mexico that talks about mpox and it features illustrations of lesions on the face and hands of young women and children, when the lesions are happening among gay and bisexual men and are located in the genital and perianal areas.”

Dr. Jorge Saavedra López

“I have seen educational materials created by some governments where they make a lot of emphasis on COVID-19 preventive measures, such as wearing masks, social distancing and hand washing. Considering the evidence that we have, those measures do not make sense. Most governments are not doing materials for gay and bisexual men.”

Dr. Ricardo Baruch Domínguez

“We cannot give the impression that you can get mpox when having dinner with some friends. You get infected during intimate physical contact, primarily sexual contact. You won't get it because of casual social interactions.”

Dr. Rubén Mayorga Sagastume

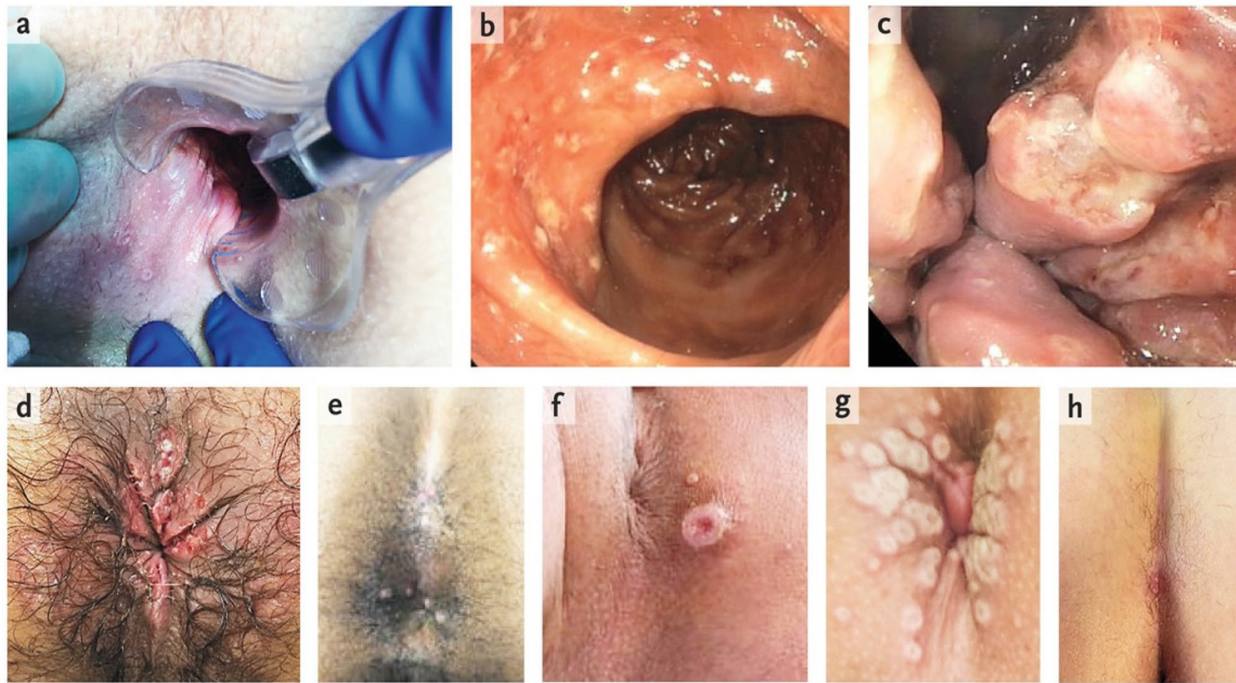
- Some organizations and governments have posted photos of mpox lesions on unspecified parts of the body, and others have shown what lesions look like on the hands or the face.
- Given that the current outbreak is concentrated among gay and bisexual men and is driven by sexual transmission, it is important to show what genital, anal and perianal lesions look like.
- An organization might be fearful of posting these images in social media due to potential censorship, however, there are ways to reduce this risk. These photos can be included as part of educational resources on organizations' websites with only their links shared on social media.



We recommend including photos of genital, anal and perianal lesions in digital and printed educational materials for gay and bisexual men.

**Showing
genital,
anal and
perianal
lesions as
they are**

GENITAL, ANAL, PERIANAL AND RECTAL LESIONS



Source: Thornhill, John P., et al. "Monkeypox virus infection in humans across 16 countries—April–June 2022." *New England Journal of Medicine* 387.8 (2022): 679-691.



Courtesy of: Jorge Saavedra and the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) Wellness Center in Peru.

“Educational resources are showing pictures of lesions on the back, chest and arms. Pictures of lesions in the mouth approximate sexual activity, but they don't have images of lesions in genitals or anuses. I've seen these pictures in scientific conferences, but not in educational resources.”

Dr. Jorge Saavedra López



Source: <https://virtuella.salud.gob.mx>

Images of an infographic developed by the Mexican government, which showcase cartoonish mpox lesions on the face of a girl/woman.

More effective materials will be:

1

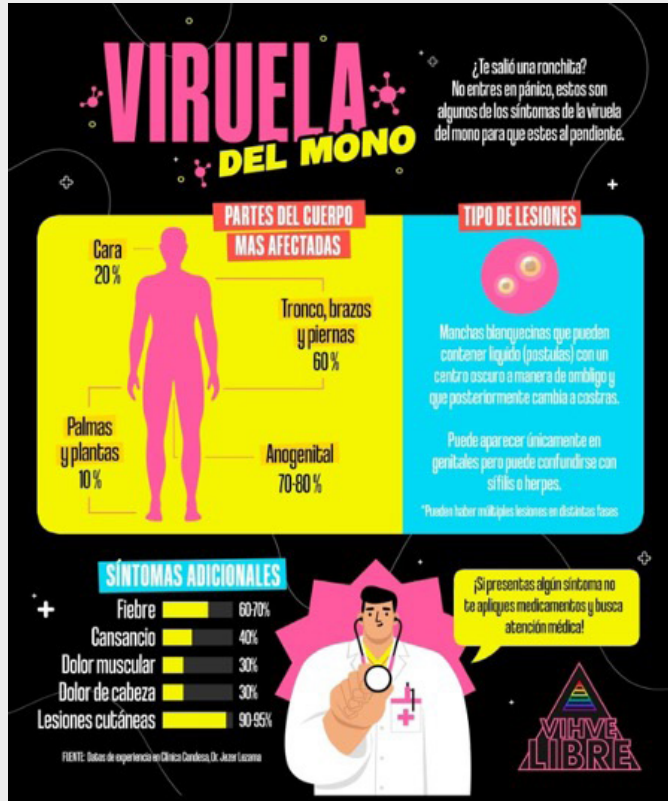
Developed by the community for the community.

2

Feature themes that are relevant to gay and bisexual men's sexuality.

3

Feature photos of genital, anal and perianal lesions.



Infographic created by the community-based organization VIHve Libre in Mexico City, which specifies that the majority of mpox lesions happen in genital, anal and perianal areas.

Courtesy of: Alaín R. Pinzón Ayala.



Infographic created by the community-based organization VIHve Libre in Mexico City, which includes rectal bleeding as one of the symptoms.

Courtesy of: Alaín R. Pinzón Ayala.

**Prevention
through solidarity**

Risk reduction: Sexual partners, communication and body exploration

- Given the current lack of vaccines in the global south, reducing the number of sexual partners and avoiding group sex encounters are strategies for risk mitigation.
- Other ways in which gay and bisexual men can reduce their risk include having conversations with sexual partners about possible symptoms and potential exposures to mpox, as well as exploring a partner's body and being attentive to skin lesions.
- The earlier these conversations happen with partners, the better. If people are using apps to connect with partners, these points should be part of those initial conversations. Many people avoid asking their partners questions about sexual health, due to lack of confidence or fear of rejection.

It is important to have clear conversations with gay and bisexual men about how to talk with their partners about sexual health and mpox. These are some of the topics that should be covered:

- 1**
Condom use, which can prevent internal lesions
- 2**
Recent potential exposures to mpox
- 3**
If they have possible symptoms (such as skin lesions) or are feeling unwell
- 4**
The importance of examining each other's bodies

It is important to stress that while these strategies could reduce risk, they might not eliminate it. There are different aspects of mpox transmission that remain unknown. One of them is the likelihood of transmission when a person is carrying the virus but does not have any symptoms yet. We recommend that organizations keep themselves updated when it comes to new information based on scientific evidence.

“During these times, it is important for the community to turn the lights on in the dark room and be on the lookout for specific lesions. If you are able to see skin lesions on the body of a partner, at least you can say no to having sex with that person or you can do something else to protect yourself.”

Dr. Jorge Saavedra López

“Having sex in a dark room or poor lighted sauna is probably not a good idea during mpox. It is preferable to know your partner, to be able to have a conversation, and to visually know that your partner has no lesions. That’s obviously going to reduce your risk. You can’t say you will eliminate it, but it makes transmission really unlikely if your partner has no lesions or if you are using a condom. However, this is not always easy or comfortable for people to do.”

Dr. Ken Mayer



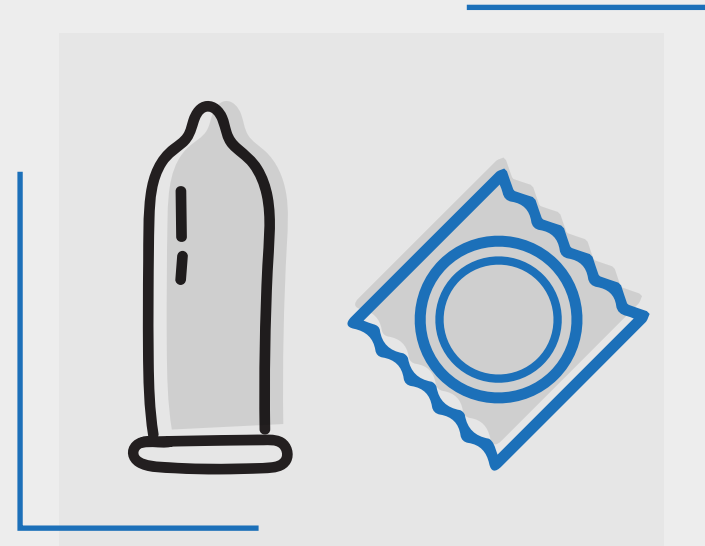
Organizations have an opportunity to promote communication with sexual partners with someone who gets diagnosed with mpox as an act of community solidarity. Some people who get diagnosed might be hesitant to inform recent sexual partners due to stigma or fear.

Communication with sexual partners and community solidarity

“The government is not taking care of us, so we have to take care of ourselves right now. Notifying our partners and not having sexual relationships if you have symptoms are ways of doing this.”

Dr. Ricardo Baruch Domínguez

Condoms as risk reduction tools



We recommend organizations promote condom usage as a tool that could potentially prevent internal lesions in the rectum, urethra, throat and mouth.

“This is an emergency situation that requires certain changes in sexual behavior. PrEP doesn't protect against mpox. Condoms might be very protective against internal lesions.”

Dr. Jorge Saavedra López

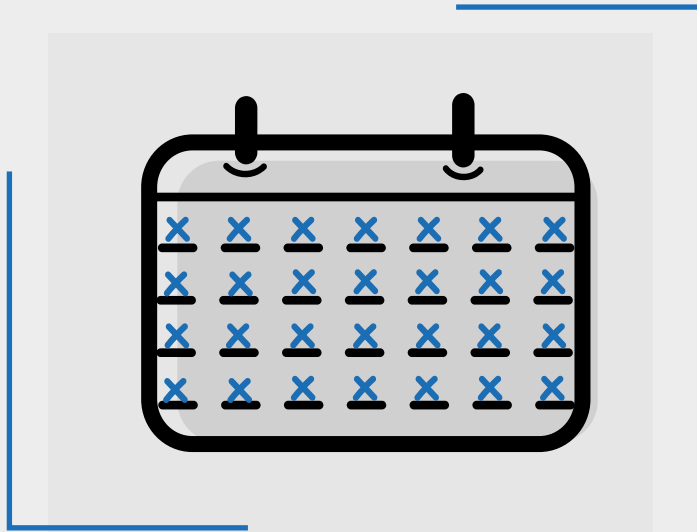
“One of the bad manifestations of mpox is that people could get rectal disease, which can be very painful. If the insertive partner is wearing a condom, the receptive partner is not likely to get rectal disease. But if the partner has the virus on the skin and they have skin-to-skin contact, that could transmit the virus.”

Dr. Ken Mayer

“Condoms could prevent genital and anal lesions, however few educational resources include this recommendation. In Latin America, I haven't seen any. I have also noticed resistance from some people working in this area when it comes to promoting condom use because they think that you can still get mpox through skin-to-skin contact. However, condoms could be of great utility in preventing internal lesions.”

Dr. Ricardo Baruch Domínguez

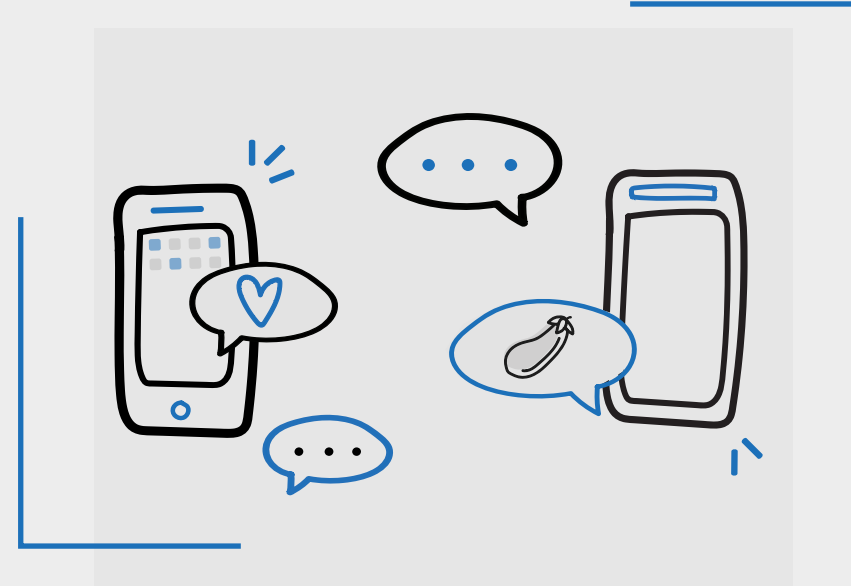
Considerations for people with mpox



- People with mpox are considered fully recovered once all their lesions have fallen off and healthy skin appears underneath.
- Recovery can take 2-4 weeks.
- There is no evidence yet of immunity to mpox after infection – if it exists and how long it lasts. We do know that many people are immune to smallpox (a similar virus) for years after vaccination.

Recovery Period

The importance of not having sex during recovery



Organizations should emphasize the importance of not having sexual relationships while recovering from mpox.



Virtual sex, sexting and masturbation should be recommended practices for people who are recovering from mpox.

- The main reasons some people with mpox get hospitalized are bacterial infections on the skin lesions and severe pain.
- Some of the oral, urethral and rectal lesions can cause a lot of pain and can make it hard to swallow, pee or poop.



A few organizations have developed lists of over-the-counter pain medications that could relieve pain. People should always be encouraged to talk with their doctors first before taking any medications.



RESPND-MI Study: [Guidance for people with mpox](#)

**Pain
associated
with mpox
lesions**

The importance of peer-to-peer support

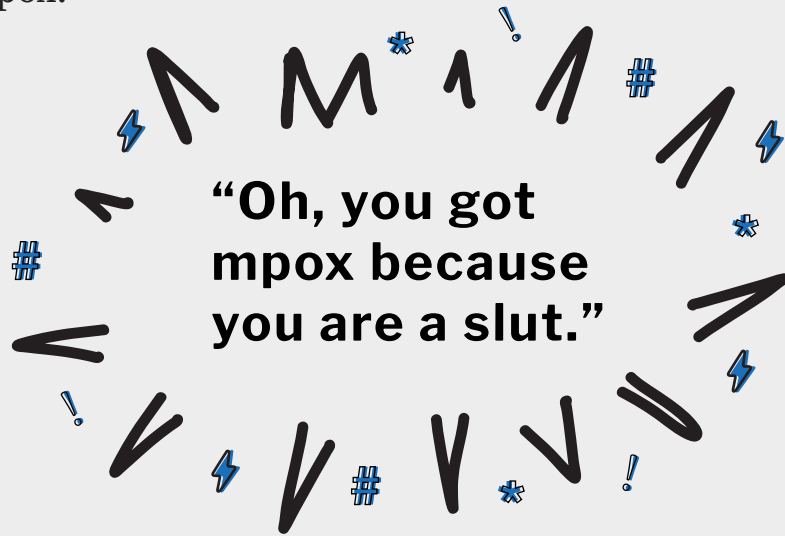


For gay and bisexual men who live alone and are diagnosed with mpox, it is important to get the support of peers when it comes to carrying out day-to-day chores such as grocery shopping or taking care of pets (mpox can be transmitted from humans to pets).



Some community-led organizations, such as VIHve Libre in Mexico City, are talking with gay and bisexual men who are diagnosed with mpox about the importance of having support from peers during recovery.

In some cases, there is stigma associated to sexual behaviors and having mpox:



- In some other cases, people with mpox face homophobic stigma.
- There is also stigma affecting men living with HIV who are diagnosed with mpox.



The most effective organizations and government institutions combat stigma by promoting messages that do not shame people because of their sexual behaviors, identities or HIV status, and embrace a risk reduction approach for mpox prevention.

Stigma associated with mpox

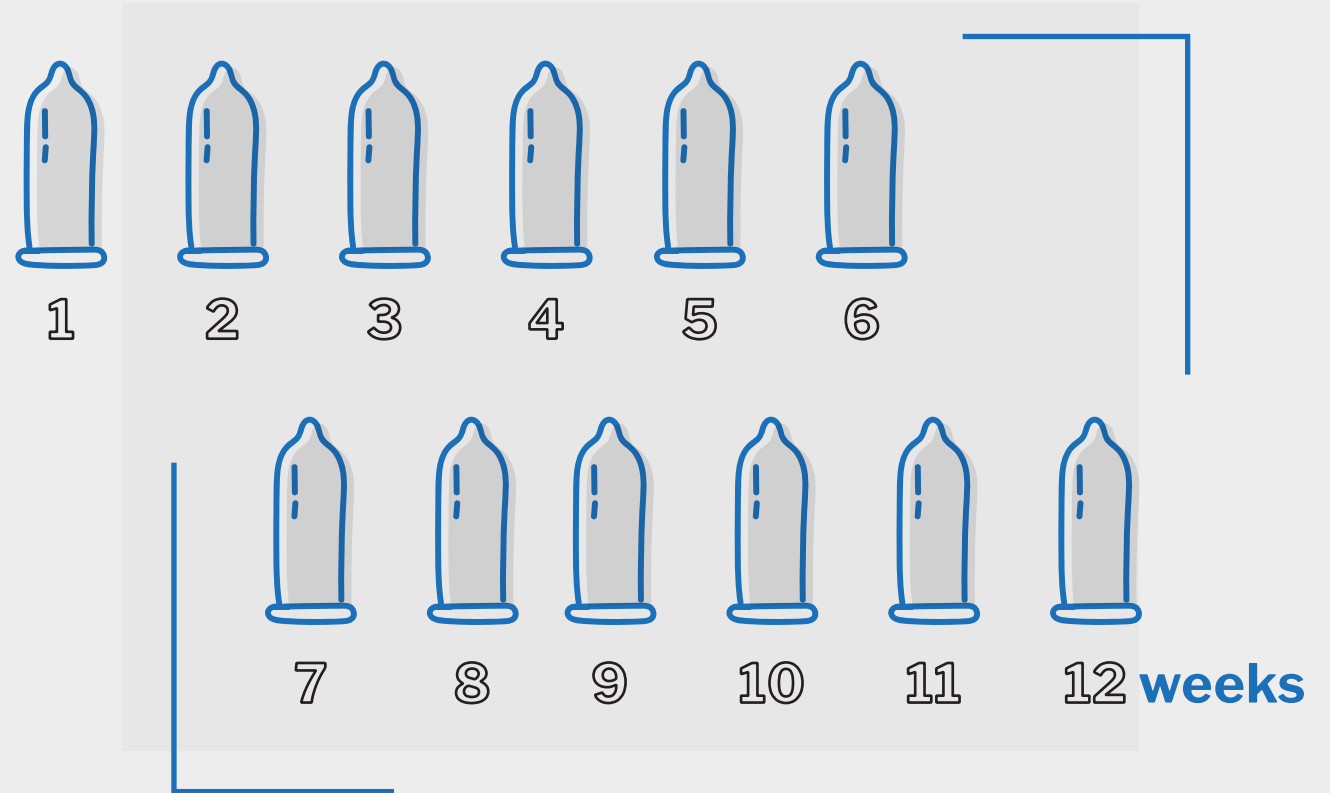
“There are messages that we are seeing on social media, such as: **Asides from having AIDS, you are still fucking around and now you get mpox. It is all your fault.**”

Dr. Ricardo Baruch Domínguez

“Young men who are diagnosed with mpox, are not out of the closet and are living with their families face the risk of homophobic stigma. If their families find out and they aren't supportive, they could potentially end up homeless.”

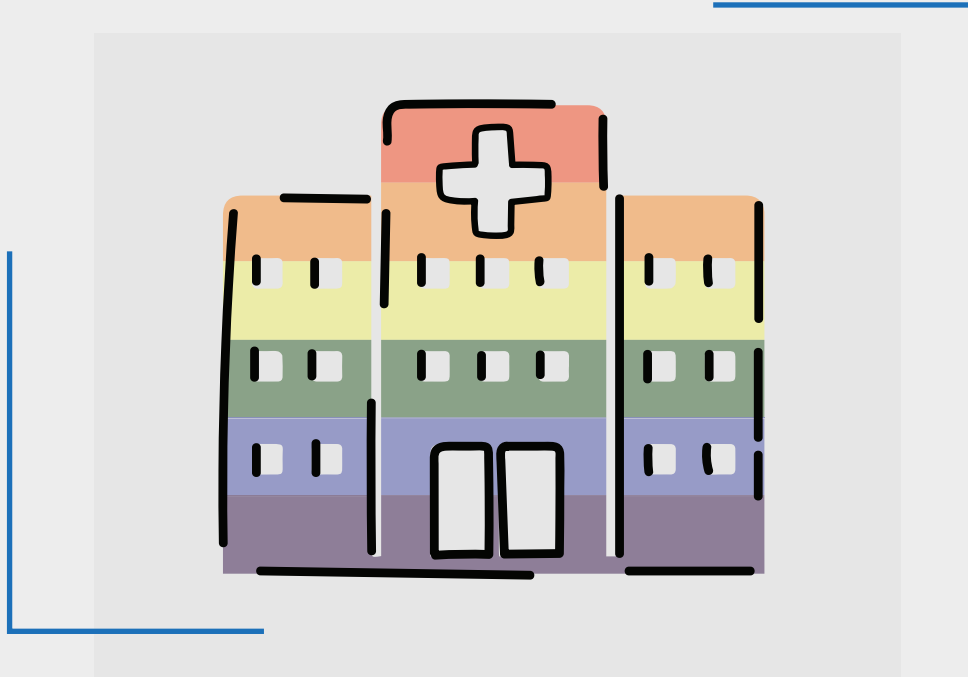
Alaín R. Pinzón Ayala

Sex after recovery



- For some people, having mpox will be a difficult experience to go through and it will take some time to start having sexual relationships after the recovery period. However, a pleasurable sex life is possible after recovering from mpox.
- WHO recommends condom use for 12 weeks following recovery from mpox.

Linking people to health services



- We recommend community-based organizations have lists of medical providers who are competent in LGBTQ+ health.
- We also recommend they establish a feedback system with the people they refer for medical services to learn about their experiences with specific health organizations.

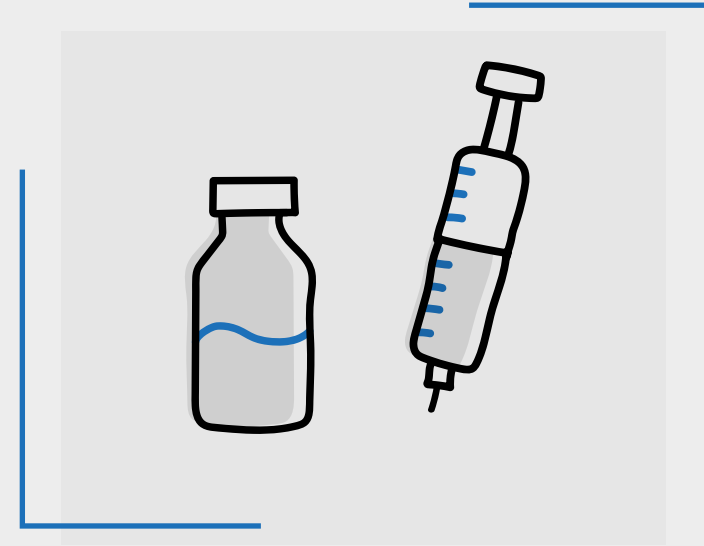
Having an updated list of health organizations

that can diagnose mpox and provide medical attention

“It is important for people to have access to pain medication, perhaps having lists of medications you can get over the counter. And if that doesn't work, it is important to consult with a healthcare provider and to have lists of healthcare providers who are LGBTQ+ competent and who will deliver quality services. People who have poor experiences with healthcare systems develop resistance to access services in the future.”

Dr. Rubén Mayorga Sagastume

Promoting vaccination in places where it is available



- There is an effective vaccination against mpox: it is called JYNNEOS.



In places where the JYNNEOS vaccine has become available, organizations have a strong responsibility to promote vaccination.

- Although thought to be rare, there have been breakthrough mpox cases reported in people who have been vaccinated. This means that while the vaccine is highly effective, it is not bullet proof. Thus, it is important to continue with other risk reduction measures.

Summary of DO's for mpox educational materials

- ✓ Target gay and bisexual men
- ✓ Feature themes that are relevant to gay and bisexual men's sexuality, such as group sex, anal sex and use of dating/ hookup apps
- ✓ Incorporate information on sexual health, genital and anal hygiene
- ✓ Feature photos of genital, anal and perianal lesions (if possible, photos of lesions on different skin colors)
- ✓ Reference health centers that can diagnose mpox and provide medical attention
- ✓ Promote vaccination in places where it is available
- ✓ Incorporate a risk reduction approach for prevention that includes strategies such as reducing the number of sexual partners, communication with partners, exploring your partner's body and condom use
- ✓ Include key information for gay and bisexual men who are diagnosed with mpox, such as the length of the recovery, the importance of not having sex during this period (masturbation and sexting are recommended during recovery), pain associated with lesions, the importance of peer support, stigma, and sex after recovery

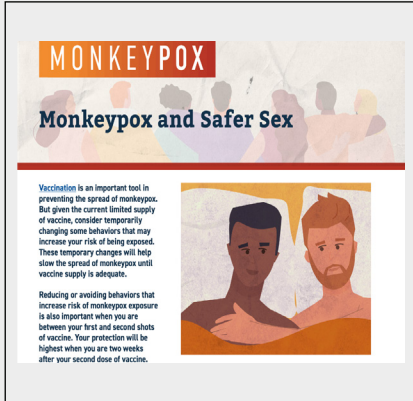


Tips for greater educational impact



- Liaise with businesses such as dating/hookup apps, bars, clubs, saunas to disseminate information about mpox. Agree with bar and club managers that putting posters about mpox in their businesses could help to protect their clients.
- Some organizations have featured testimonials of gay and bisexual men who have had mpox to convey messages about risk mitigation. It is important to note that some people are not open to sharing their testimony because of stigma.

**Examples of quality
educational resources
developed by the
community for the
community**



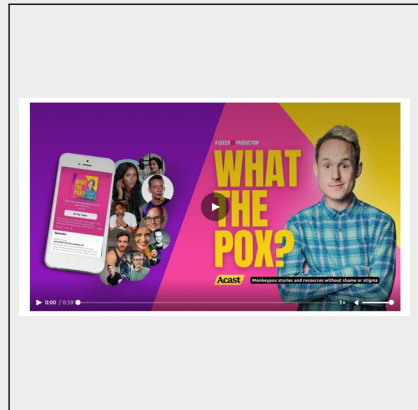
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Factsheet on mpx and safer sex for gay and bisexual men.



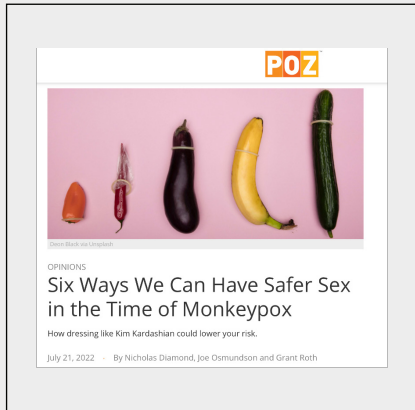
Escándala, a LGBTQ+ news outlet in Mexico, has disseminated information about mpx on social media and in podcasts. Check out Dr. Ricardo Baruch Domínguez talking about mpx (in Spanish).



Poster from the government of Jalisco, Mexico that shows a “glory hole” in a public restroom and offers mpx prevention information to gay and bisexual men through a QR code.



Queer AF: What the Pox? Podcast featuring different community experts and advocates.



Poz Magazine | Six Ways We Can Have Safer Sex in the Time of Mpx by Nicholas Diamond, Joe Osmundson and Grant Roth.



Queer Health: Everything we know about mpx so far.



Strengthening Health Services

The importance of medical providers with LGBTQ+ competence

- If a medical provider is not comfortable asking gay and bisexual men about their sex lives, this will affect the quality of the care they provide.
- Some medical providers are not trained on issues related to the sexuality of gay and bisexual men, such as anal health and hygiene and three site-STI testing (STI testing in the mouth, anus and urethra).
- To be effective with mpox prevention and care, medical providers need to have the appropriate competency to serve gay and bisexual men.



Medical providers should strive to provide a warm and welcoming environment to gay and bisexual men. Body language is very important to make patients comfortable and for them to open up with their providers.

- Mpox education, testing and care should be integrated within routine sexual health services for gay and bisexual men.
- All gay and bisexual men who raise concerns about potential mpox lesions or who are diagnosed with mpox should also be tested for HIV and other STIs and connected to medical care (such as HIV medical care) and/or to available preventive services (such as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis/PrEP) when appropriate.



Mobile HIV/STI testing units can be used for mpox testing in spots where gay and bisexual men have sexual relationships. This has been done successfully in Peru, as reported by Dr. Rubén Mayorga Sagastume from the Pan American Health Organization.

Integrating mpox prevention and care into sexual health services

“In Peru what has been effective is that mobile clinics have been deployed to bars, saunas and places where sexual activity happens and they have been conducting testing for mpox, HIV and STIs. In addition to diagnosing mpox cases, these mobile units have also diagnosed more HIV, have found people living with HIV who had dropped out of medical care, and they reengaged them back in care.”

Dr. Rubén Mayorga Sagastume

- Sexual history taking is an integral part of sexual health services. It represents a good opportunity to:
 - a) collect key data from patients who have been diagnosed with mpox; and
 - b) have a conversation with patients to inform them about mpox and talk about ways to reduce the risk of acquiring it.



Medical providers need to inform patients of all the potential ways in which they can reduce their risk of contracting mpox: getting vaccinated (in places where the vaccine is available), reducing the number of sexual partners, using condoms, examining a partner's body to make sure they don't have any lesions, having conversations with partners about recent exposures and any possible symptoms.

Sexual history taking

- When a patient raises concerns about potential mpox lesions, medical providers should conduct genital examinations.
- For patients who are diagnosed with mpox, providers need to talk with them about the possibility of informing their recent partners. They should also be advised to avoid sexual relationships until they are fully recovered.
- The moment in which a medical provider is conducting sexual history taking is a great opportunity to distribute educational resources about mpox to gay and bisexual men.



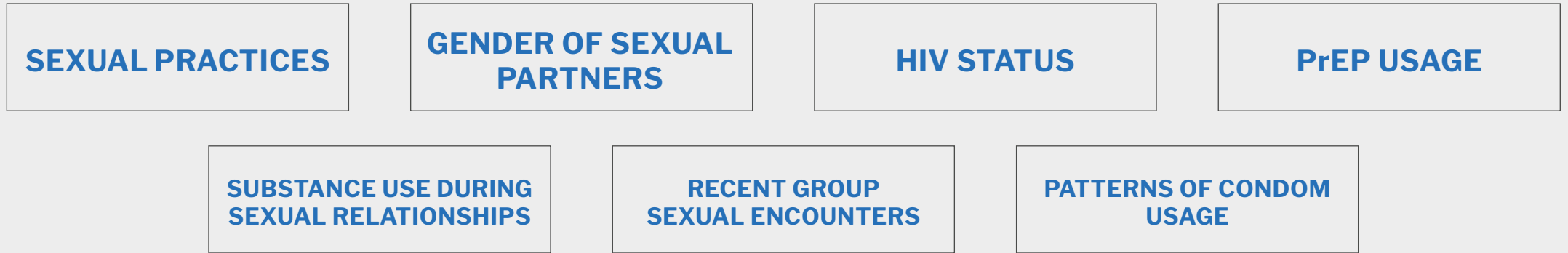
“There is a clinical guidance for medical providers in Mexico where they don't emphasize aspects of sexuality. They don't recommend asking if a person wore a condom or not, questions about sexual encounters, group sex, or sex with multiple partners; that data is not being collected because the guidelines are not recommending this to providers. Sexual history taking is seen as a marginal thing, when most mpox cases are a consequence of sexual contact.”

Dr. Jorge Saavedra López

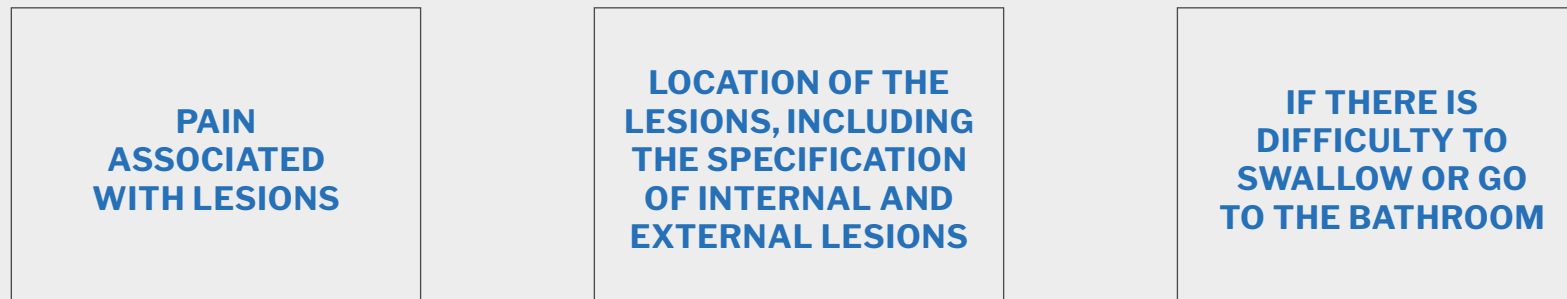
“The providers should be educated on how to provide LGBTQ+ competent care. They should be able to know how to talk about mpox in a way that gay and bisexual men don't feel stigmatized. They have to inform patients that there is a new infection out there in the community, that they need to ask some questions about their sexual practices and talk about ways to reduce their risk.”

Dr. Ken Mayer

These are some areas that are key for sexual history taking with gay and bisexual men who express medical concerns about mpox:



For patients with mpox lesions, the following should also be addressed:





Strengthening Advocacy

A time that calls for LGBTQ+ solidarity to demand access to the vaccine

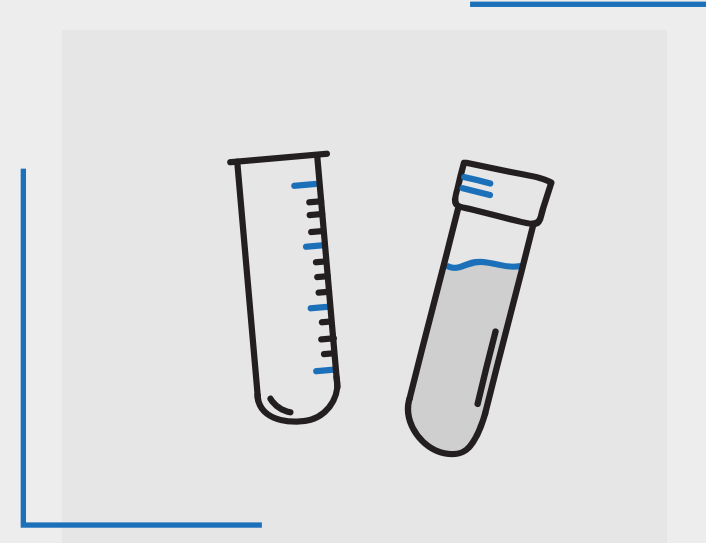
- Mpox is a vaccine preventable disease. There is also an antiviral medication (T-POXX) that works well for severe disease.
- The inaction of any government to get the JYNNEOS vaccine and T-POXX is harming gay and bisexual men. Governments should not use the excuse of not wanting to stigmatize gay and bisexual men for not responding properly to this outbreak.



The LGBTQ+ movement needs to stand together to demand access to the JYNNEOS vaccine, T-POXX and accurate public health information that meets the needs of gay and bisexual men.

- Organizations located in capital cities hold special importance to build coalitions and coordinate advocacy efforts with governments.
- The JYNNEOS vaccine is superior to the ACAM2000 for smallpox, given that it has less side effects. Advocacy efforts should be centered around ensuring the purchase and distribution of the JYNNEOS vaccine.

The need for governments to scale up testing

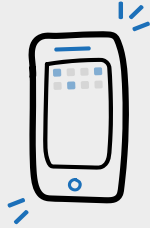


Some LGBTQ+ organizations are strongly advocating for governments to scale up testing. For many people, a proof of diagnosis is necessary to take sick leave from their work.

- LGBTQ+ organizations should encourage anyone who suspects having mpox symptoms to get tested as soon as possible.



BARS



DATING APPS



SAUNAS



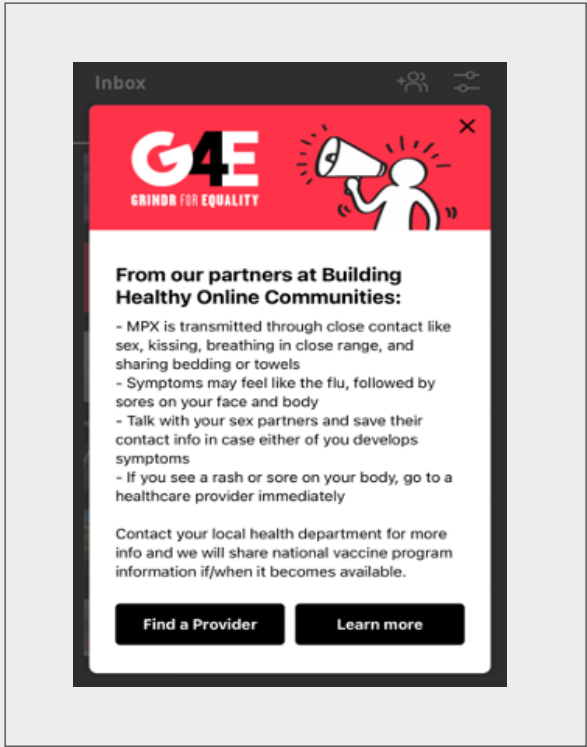
CLUBS



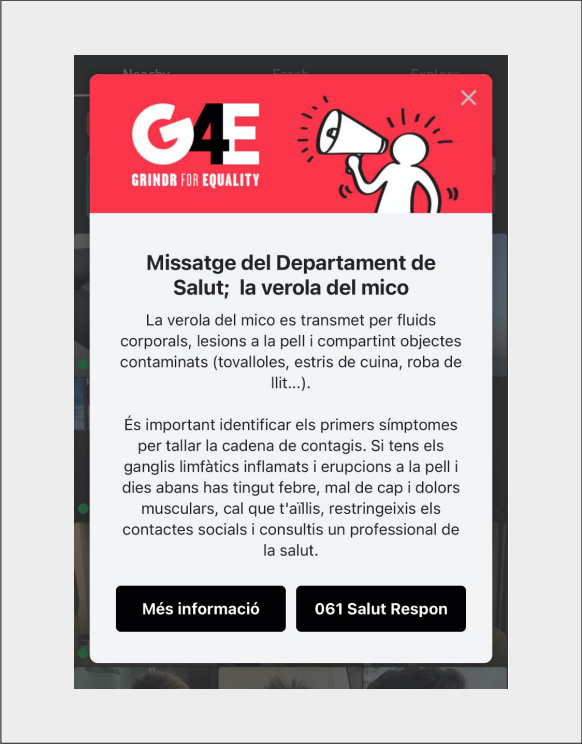
Multi-sectoral partnerships are key to address the mpox outbreak. Businesses such as bars, clubs, saunas and dating/hookup apps need to be included in these partnerships so that they can spread accurate information.

- Grindr, for instance, has been sending alerts to their users about mpox and has created a resource list per country. These alerts and resources have been developed in conjunction with the public health organization Building Healthy Online Communities (BHOC) and with local public health departments.

The importance of getting businesses involved



Grindr alert sent to users in the US about mpox. This alert was created in conjunction with the organization Building Healthy Online Communities.



Example of a Grindr alert sent to users in Barcelona about mpox. This alert was created in conjunction with the Barcelona public health department.



Op-ed published at GCN magazine by Dr. Antón Castellanos Usigli.


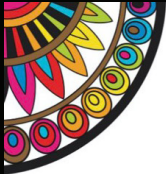
Declaration of the Gay Latino Network

On August 31st 2022, the Gay Latino Network, the largest Latin American Network of gay leaders, released a declaration on mpox in which they call governments in Latin America to:

- Declare mpox as a public health emergency
- Recognize that gay and bisexual men are the most affected population by mpox
- Transparently report cases of mpox to international agencies
- Increase access to diagnostic testing
- Design and implement mpox response programs in conjunction with gay and bisexual men
- Provide evidence-based information about mpox to gay and bisexual men
- Urgently purchase and distribute the JYNNEOS vaccine among gay and bisexual men



Declaration of the Gay Latino Network



MONKEYPOX DECLARATION


Mexico City, August 31, 2022

Gay leaders from 21 countries gathered in Mexico City during the Regional Conference on Sexual Health, Human Rights and Care for Gay and Bisexual Men declare the following:

The resurgence of monkeypox outside the endemic areas in Africa, began affecting and continues to affect predominantly gay and bisexual men, has been declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Because it is an international emergency and because it is disproportionately affecting the population that we represent, we make the following call to all the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean:

- 1.- To follow the example of the WHO and declare monkeypox as an emergency in our countries;
- 2.- To transparently report epidemiological information on monkeypox cases in a timely manner to international health agencies, and assume the urgent responsibility to respond to and contain the outbreak;
- 3.- To recognize that -according to the available scientific evidence- intimate contact, particularly sexual contact, is the main route of transmission, although it is also recognized that it can be transmitted in other ways;
- 4.- To approach and provide scientific and evidence-based information, primarily to the most affected populations;
- 5.- That the design and implementation of national and international response programs to the monkeypox emergency be agreed with gay and bisexual leaders and organizations;
- 6.- To increase and ensure access to early diagnostic testing in gay and bisexual men, with prompt confirmatory results;
- 7.- To train and sensitize health personnel about monkeypox to the approach and provide care, without prejudice or discrimination, towards gay and bisexual men;
- 8.- To immediately make budget forecasts to urgently buy and acquire the necessary vaccines -already approved by European and North American agencies- and establish a comprehensive prevention and vaccination strategy;
- 9.- To guarantee the necessary comprehensive support so that the people affected by monkeypox can comply with the recommended isolation, guaranteeing the validity of the framework of confidentiality and Human Rights;
- 10.- To recognize as the most affected and priority population, that of gay and bisexual men in all their circumstances, for access to vaccination against monkeypox, according to epidemiological data;
- 11.- To implement actions against stigma, discrimination, mistreatment and violence to which gay and bisexual men are exposed.

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- Mexico has been one of the most affected countries in the international mpox outbreak and its government is failing to protect the health of gay and bisexual men.
- #ViruelaSímicaMX is a community-based advocacy campaign that is denouncing the inaction of the Mexican government.



A community- based advocacy campaign in Mexico

“Mpox is a vaccine preventable disease and for people who develop complications there is antiviral medication that is very effective, T-POXX. It is not acceptable that the vaccine and the antiviral are not available in Latin America. It is not in anyone’s interest to let this virus go unchecked.”

Dr. Ken Mayer

References



- Thornhill, John P., et al. “Monkeypox virus infection in humans across 16 countries—April–June 2022.” *New England Journal of Medicine* 387.8 (2022): 679-691.
- World Health Organization (2022). *Monkeypox Outbreak: Global Trends*. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/situations/monkeypox-outbreak-2022>

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES (ENGLISH)

- [Building Healthy Online Communities: Mpox virus](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Mpox and safer sex](#)
- [Fenway Health: Mpox](#)
- [GCN Magazine: What dating apps can do to help protect MSM from mpox](#)
- [Poz Magazine: Six ways we can have safer sex in the time of mpox](#)
- [Queer AF: What the pox? Podcast](#)
- [Queer Health: Everything we know about mpox so far](#)
- [RESPND-MI Study](#)
- [World Health Organization: Mpox outbreak 2022](#)
- [CDC: Mpox equity toolkit](#)

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES (SPANISH)

- Building Healthy Online Communities: Viruela símica o del mono
- Pan American Health Organization: Viruela símica
- Pan American Health Organization: Cómo hablar de viruela símica sin hacer daño
- Respuesta a la Viruela Símica (advocacy campaign in Mexico)



SEXUAL HEALTH
AND WELLBEING