

Infection Prevention and Control considerations for Mpox

Andy Bulabula, MD, PgDipIPC, PhD

Senior Technical Officer for IPC
Co-Lead IPC – Mpox Continental Preparedness and Response Plan
Africa CDC, HQ

IPC Mpox Algorithm

Patient

Initial Patient Screening & Triage

- **Input:** Patient presents with symptoms (e.g., rash, fever, lymphadenopathy).
- **Action:**
 - Use a **screening tool** to identify suspected MPX cases based on WHO case definitions.
 - Perform **triage** to assess the severity of the case.
- **Output:**
 - If suspected MPX, proceed with isolation and initiate appropriate precautions.

Isolation Measures

- **Input:** Suspected or confirmed MPX patient.
- **Action:**
 - Place the patient in a **well-ventilated, single room** with a dedicated bathroom if possible.
 - If a single room is unavailable, **cohort confirmed cases** (keep at least 1 meter between patients).
- **Output:**
 - Continue isolation until lesions crust, scabs fall off, and a fresh skin layer forms.

Patient Movement

- **Input:** Need to transport the patient.
- **Action:**
 - **Minimize patient movement.**
 - If movement is required, ensure the patient wears a **medical mask** and has lesions covered.
- **Output:**
 - Safe transport of patients without cross-contamination.

Handling of Patient Materials

- **Input:** Linens, towels, and other items used by MPX patients.
- **Action:**
 - Carefully **handle linens and waste**, avoid shaking them.
 - Wash linens at **>60°C** or soak in chlorine if hot water is unavailable.
 - Treat **bodily fluids and solid waste** as infectious.
- **Output:**
 - Safe disposal of infectious materials.

Cleaning and Disinfection

- **Input:** Areas and equipment used by MPX patients.
- **Action:**
 - Frequently clean and disinfect patient care areas using **appropriate disinfectants**.
 - HCWs should wear PPE during cleaning.
- **Output:**
 - Minimize environmental contamination.

Health Workers

Precautions for Health Workers

- **Input:** Health worker attending a suspected or confirmed MPX patient.
- **Action:**
 - Implement **contact and droplet precautions**.
 - Health workers should wear **PPE**: gloves, gowns, N95/FFP2 respirators, and eye protection.
 - For **aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs)**: apply **airborne precautions**.
- **Output:**
 - Continuous adherence to PPE guidelines during care.

Health Worker Exposure Management

- **Input:** Health worker exposed to an MPX patient.
- **Action:**
 - Assess the health worker for exposure risk.
 - **Implement a management plan** based on risk level (e.g., monitoring, PEP).
- **Output:**
 - Safe management of exposed health workers to prevent further spread.

Thank You