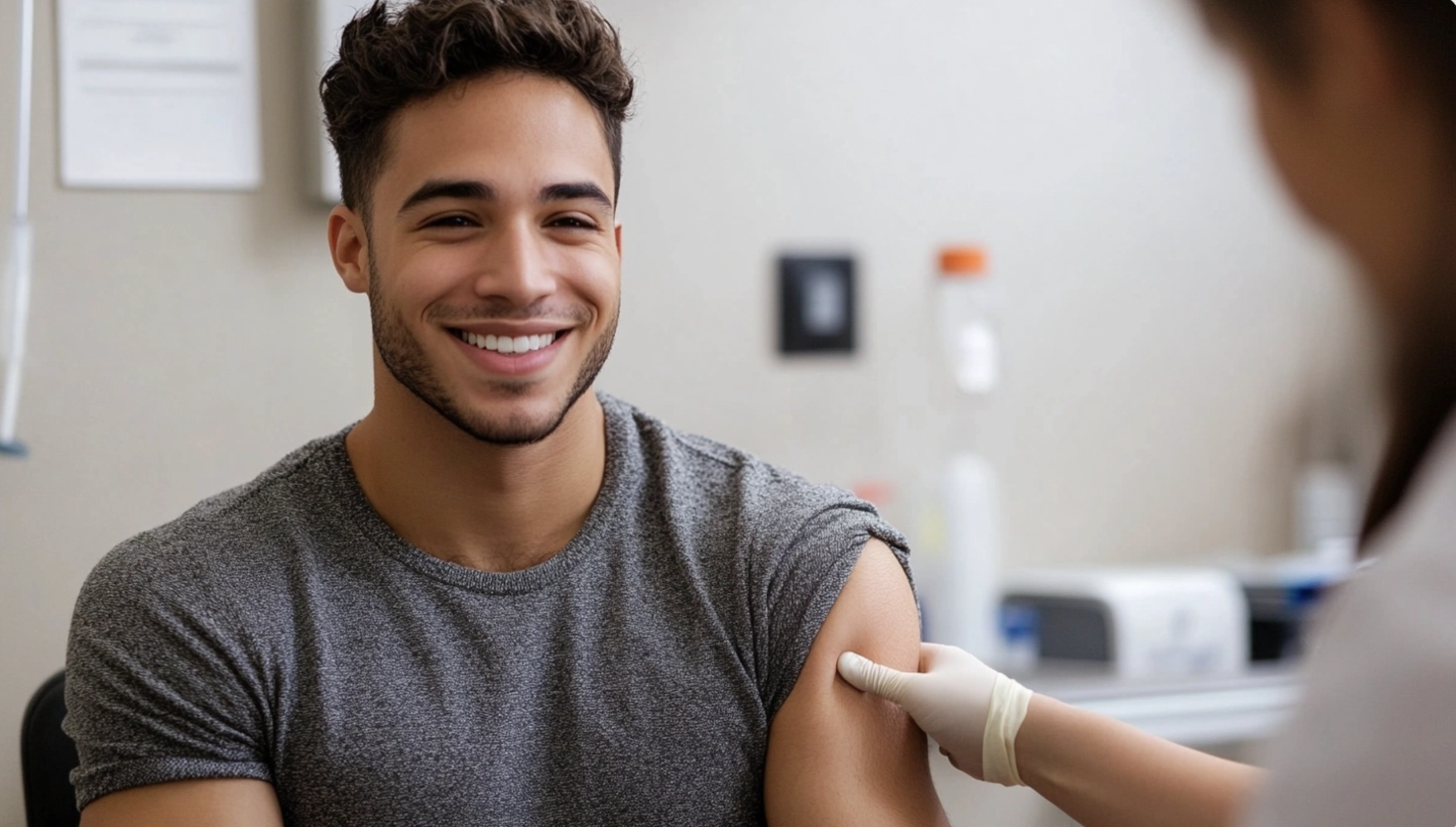
# MPox is back! Gay men should think about vaccination



Last year, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) confirmed its first case of Clade Ib mpox within the country, following a declaration made by the World Health Organization (WHO) that the mpox outbreak constituted a public health emergency of international concern. The announcement has stirred important discussions around public health safeguards and the mechanisms in place to address emerging infectious diseases.

The UKHSA detailed that extensive planning and preparedness are in place. “UKHSA, the NHS and partner organisations have well tested capabilities to detect, contain and treat novel infectious diseases," the agency stated. While the emergence of this Clade Ib case marks a significant event, the agency emphasised that the risk to the broader UK population remains low, with an aim to keep the disease contained efficiently.

Individuals are advised to be vigilant for specific symptoms associated with mpox. According to information provided by the UKHSA, common symptoms include a skin rash or pus-filled lesions, which may last between two to four weeks. Other symptoms can encompass fever, headaches, muscle aches, back pain, and swollen lymph nodes. The mode of transmission is also notable; the disease can spread through close person-to-person contact with infected individuals or animals, as well as through contaminated materials. People exhibiting symptoms are urged to avoid contact with others until they are no longer symptomatic.

Vaccination plays a critical role in preventing the spread of mpox, and the UKHSA has ensured that mpox vaccines are available for specific groups. This particularly includes men who are gay, bisexual, or have sex with other men, especially those with multiple partners, those who engage in group sex, or those visiting sex-on-premises venues. It also extends to staff working within these venues, underscoring a targeted public health approach to vaccination.

Steve Russell, NHS national director for vaccination and screening, commented on the situation, saying, “The NHS is fully prepared to respond to the first confirmed case of this clade of mpox. Since mpox first became present in England, local services have pulled out all the stops to vaccinate those eligible, with tens of thousands in priority groups having already come forward to get protected.” He further noted that despite the overall low risk of mpox transmission in the UK, plans are in place for a swift expansion of vaccine availability, should the necessity arise.

As the UK navigates the implications of this confirmed case, healthcare professionals remain on alert to ensure that the appropriate measures are enacted to manage and mitigate the potential impact on the community.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/confirmed-cases-of-mpox-clade-ib-in-united-kingdom> - Corroborates the confirmation of Clade Ib mpox cases in the UK, including the first case reported on 30 October 2024 and subsequent cases.
* <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/confirmed-cases-of-mpox-clade-ib-in-united-kingdom> - Details the symptoms of mpox, including skin rash or pus-filled lesions, fever, headaches, muscle aches, back pain, and swollen lymph nodes.
* <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/confirmed-cases-of-mpox-clade-ib-in-united-kingdom> - Explains the mode of transmission of mpox through close person-to-person contact and contaminated materials.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/monkeypox-outbreak-epidemiological-overview/mpox-outbreak-epidemiological-overview-12-december-2024> - Provides context on mpox outbreaks in the UK, including the epidemiological overview and public health measures.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/monkeypox-outbreak-epidemiological-overview/mpox-outbreak-epidemiological-overview-12-december-2024> - Details the targeted public health approach to vaccination, particularly for men who are gay, bisexual, or have sex with other men.
* <https://www.unmc.edu/healthsecurity/transmission/2024/12/04/uk-confirmed-cases-of-mpox-clade-ib/> - Supports the information on the first case of Clade Ib mpox reported on 30 October 2024 and subsequent cases.
* <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/confirmed-cases-of-mpox-clade-ib-in-united-kingdom> - Corroborates the UKHSA's statement on the capabilities to detect, contain, and treat novel infectious diseases.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/monkeypox-outbreak-epidemiological-overview/mpox-outbreak-epidemiological-overview-12-december-2024> - Provides additional context on the public health measures and preparedness in place for managing mpox outbreaks.