

Do you know how to recognize Mpox and its mimickers?



Image B: Lesions due to folliculitis

Image A: Lesions due to mpox

Mpox is a viral illness that is mainly spread through close, personal (skin-to-skin) contact with someone who is infected. The most common symptom is a well circumscribed, firm rash, which may look like pimples, blisters, umbilicated lesions, sores, or other more common rashes such as chicken pox, syphilis, or shingles.. Lesions may also occur in genital, anorectal and oral areas. The rash can present as a single lesion or more disseminated. The rash can be extremely painful and leave scars. Other prodromal symptoms may include fever, headache, muscle aches, backaches, swollen lymph nodes, chills, and exhaustion may occur after the rash onset or not at all. Mpox is pictured in **image A** and a mimic, folliculitis is pictured in **image B**. It is important to test for, or rule out all differential diagnoses at the time of presentation. Use VisualDx to learn more about [mpox](#) and how to differentiate it from look alikes. The reporting information below is also in VisualDx.

What to do if clinicians suspect mpox?

Call Vermont Department of Health Infectious Disease Program at [802-863-7240](tel:802-863-7240) (option 2) to consult with an epidemiologist 24/7. They will guide you through the process of specimen collection and sending specimens to the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory (VDHL). Testing is also available through the commercial labs Labcorp, Aegis and Quest. Turn-around time and cost may vary by lab.

- Make sure that all the appropriate [isolation and infection control protocols](#) are being followed.
- For infection control in healthcare settings, including patient placement, personal protective equipment (PPE) and environmental infection control, please refer to [Infection Prevention and Control of hMPXV in Healthcare Settings](#).
- Patients who do not need to be hospitalized should follow [home isolation measures](#) while laboratory tests are pending and, if positive, until they are no longer infectious (until all lesions have resolved and a fresh layer of skin has formed).