

**From:** Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
**To:** Regional Health Authorities, Physicians and Other Primary Care Providers  
**Re:** Update on Monkeypox and the Provincial Notifiable Disease List  
**Date:** March 3, 2023

Following consultations with global experts who met to discuss stigmatizing language used following the outbreak of monkeypox, the World Health Organization (WHO) has introduced the new preferred term “mpox” as a synonym for monkeypox. To avoid confusion, the WHO will use both of these names simultaneously for one year while the term “monkeypox” is being phased out. Consistent with the World Health Organization’s November 28, 2022 announcement regarding this name change, the Department of Health and Community Services will refer to human monkeypox disease as mpox effective immediately.

Until now, mpox has been reportable in Newfoundland and Labrador under section 7 of the Regulations as a new or unusual disease that could be a risk to the health of the population. The WHO identifies surveillance and rapid identification of new cases as being critical for outbreak containment. Given that future outbreaks of mpox is likely, it has been added to the Regulations under the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act** in Newfoundland and Labrador.

In accordance with this Amendment to the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act** Regulations, mpox is identified as a communicable disease that must be reported in writing, within 24 hours of laboratory or clinical diagnosis, whichever occur first, as per the [Notifiable Disease List and Notification Form](#).

Regional Contact	Phone (immediate contact)	Fax (written contact within 24 hours)
Eastern Health	(709) 752-4358	(709) 752-4873
Western Health	(709) 643-1830	(709) 643-8541
Central Health	(709) 571-2183/422-1740	(709) 651-6483
Labrador-Grenfell Health—North	(709) 897-3110	(709) 896-4393
Labrador-Grenfell Health—West	(709) 285-8410	(709) 896-4393

For more information related to mpox, please refer to the [previous related CMOH Memo](#), visit the [provincial website dedicated to mpox](#) or [PHAC website](#).

The process for notifying communicable disease departments of suspect cases has been updated. As noted on the [Notifiable Disease List and Notification Form](#), regions should be the first point of contact during regular business hours (Monday to Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm). For urgent matters, the MOH on call should be the first point of contact outside of regular hours and on weekends. It is important to note that the notifiable disease list and notification form includes a section for client information (page 2 of the document). This document in its entirety should be used for all written notifications. The notifiable disease notification form previously used is no longer needed.

The Department of Health and Community Services will continue to share updates on provincial information as it becomes available.