

# Public health advice for gatherings during the current monkeypox outbreak

## Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide public health advice to:

- host governments, public health authorities, national or international organizers and professional staff involved in the planning and delivery of gathering events;
- people organizing smaller gatherings or attending gatherings of any size and type.

*Information on this outbreak is changing rapidly as we learn more. Check [Monkeypox outbreak 2022 - Global](#) (who.int) for the most up to date information.*

## Background

- The unexpected appearance of monkeypox in several WHO regions in the initial absence of epidemiological links to areas that have historically reported monkeypox suggests that there may have been undetected transmission for some time. Epidemiological investigations are ongoing.
- Most reported monkeypox cases have presented through sexual health or other health services in primary or secondary healthcare facilities.
- The identification of confirmed and suspected cases of monkeypox with no direct travel links to previously affected areas is atypical, and even a single case of monkeypox in a newly affected country is considered an outbreak.
- For the latest information on transmission, signs and symptoms please refer to [Clinical management and infection prevention and control for monkeypox: Interim rapid response guidance](#).

## Risk-based approach for gatherings

### Principles

- WHO recommends that the decision-making process related to holding, modifying, postponing or cancelling gatherings of any size and type should rely on a risk-based approach, tailored to the characteristics of the event under consideration and be repeated at regular intervals.
- The risk-based approach entails three steps:
  1. Risk evaluation: identification and quantification of the baseline risks based on the characteristics of the event and the context in which it takes place;
  2. Risk mitigation: application of a package of precautionary measures aimed at decreasing the baseline risk;
  3. Risk communication: proactive dissemination of information on the measures adopted, their rationale and purpose, and on how the relevant decisions were taken.
- In the context of the current outbreak, monkeypox-associated risks should be considered and factored in when planning a gathering event.
- Postponing or cancelling gatherings in areas where monkeypox cases have been detected is not required as a default measure.

## Monkeypox-associated risks during the current outbreak

- In the context of the current monkeypox outbreak, cases have been primarily identified among some gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men including those who have

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