

Dear Colleague

## **CLADE 1 MPOX VIRUS DEROGATION, GUIDANCE AND BOARD PREPAREDNESS**

I am writing to all NHS services in Scotland to inform you that following advice from the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP), and with agreement from the 4 Chief Medical Officers of the UK, from Wednesday 19 March 2025 Clade 1 mpox will no longer be classified as a High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID).

It should be noted that mpox remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern as defined by the World Health Organisation. As such, this derogation should not be interpreted as mpox no longer being of any clinical or public health importance and there will be ongoing public health management of cases and contacts. Mpox remains a Notifiable Disease under the Public Health etc (Scotland) Act 2008.

Given the nature of the global outbreak, we remain likely to see imported cases of clade 1 mpox.

The latest [CAS Alert](#), issued on behalf of the 4 Chief Medical Officers of the UK, was circulated on 19 March 2025.

A PHS Public Health Alert on mpox Clade 1a and 1b (2025/07) was circulated on 19 March 2025 and sets out the recommended approach that NHS services should follow. Please contact your local Health Protection Team to obtain a copy if you have not received.

### **Actions**

NHS services in Scotland should familiarise themselves with both the CAS and PHS Alerts and the [mpox guidance](#), and ensure all relevant health professionals are aware of the contents.

### **Clinical pathways**

All NHS Boards should ensure that there are local pathways in place, in both primary and secondary care, to appropriately isolate, diagnose and manage potential cases, both in and out of hours, including for pregnant women and children.

**From the Chief Medical  
Officer for Scotland  
Professor Sir Gregor Smith**

20 March 2025

SGHD/CMO(2025) 04

### **Addresses**

#### For action

Chief Executives NHS Boards  
Medical Directors NHS Boards  
Directors of Public Health  
Nurse Directors NHS Boards  
Primary Care Leads  
NHS Boards Infectious Disease  
Consultants  
Consultant Physicians  
General Practitioners  
Practice Nurses  
Consultants in Public Health  
Accident and Emergency  
Departments  
Virology Laboratories  
Travel Clinics  
Directors of Pharmacy  
Chief Executive NHS 24  
Sexual Health Services  
SAS  
Occupational Health  
GP OOH

#### For information

Public Health Scotland  
Directors of Dentistry  
Optometrists

### **Further Enquiries to:**

Population Health Resilience and  
Protection Division  
[healthprotection@gov.scot](mailto:healthprotection@gov.scot)

## Further information

- [Mpox guidance for health protection teams - version 1.7 - Mpox guidance for health protection teams - Publications - Public Health Scotland](#)
- [Derogation of clade I mpox - GOV.UK](#)
- [Mpox: background information \(UKHSA\)](#)
- [Mpox: When to suspect a case of mpox \(UKHSA\)](#)
- [National Infection Prevention and Control Manual \(ARHAI\)](#)
- [Vaccination to help protect against mpox \(monkeypox\) | NHS Inform](#)
- [Mpox \(monkeypox\) | NHS inform](#)

Yours sincerely

*Gregor Smith*

Professor Sir Gregor Smith  
**Chief Medical Officer for Scotland**