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SUPPLEMENT

PROCLAMATIONS, RULES AND REGULATIONS

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No. 185

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (ENFORCEMENT MEASURES)

(MONKEYPOX (MPX)) ORDER, 2022

WHEREAS the Central Health Committee has reported to the Minister that Jamaica appears to be threatened with or affected by Monkeypox (MPX), and that measures apart from or in addition to those specifically provided for in the Public Health Act should be taken promptly:

NOW THEREFORE:

In exercise of the powers conferred upon the Minister by section 16(1) of the Public Health Act, and every other power hereunto enabling, the following Order is hereby made:—

Citation and
commence-
ment.

1. —(1) This Order may be cited as the Public Health (Enforcement Measures) (Monkeypox (MPX)) Order, 2022.

(2) This Order shall take effect on the 14th day of July, 2022.

Protocols for
treatment
and
management
of
Monkeypox
(MPX).

2. The Monkeypox (MPX) protocols (hereinafter referred to as the protocols), issued by the Ministry with responsibility for Health and Wellness and set out in the First Schedule, shall apply to the treatment and management of Monkeypox (MPX).

First
Schedule.

Enforcement.

3. The measures set out in paragraphs 4 and 5 of this Order are directed to be enforced, in accordance with section 16 of the Act, for removing or otherwise guarding against Monkeypox (MPX) and the possible consequences thereof, or for preventing or mitigating as far as possible Monkeypox (MPX).

Directions to
persons with
Monkeypox
(MPX).

4. A person who tests positive for Monkeypox (MPX) shall, except for the purpose of seeking urgent medical attention, remain in quarantine in accordance with a quarantine order issued under paragraph 5.

Quarantine
order.
Second
Schedule.

5.—(1) A quarantine order in the form set out in the Second Schedule shall be issued to a person who, under the case definitions set out in the protocols, is classified by a medical officer as—

(a) a confirmed, suspected or probable case of Monkeypox (MPX);
or

(b) a close contact of a person referred to in sub-paragraph (a).

(2) A person who is issued a quarantine order under sub-paragraph (1) is directed to comply with the conditions set out in the quarantine order.

FIRST SCHEDULE

(Paragraph 2)

**MOHW QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS FOR MONKEYPOX
OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT
July 10 2022**

BACKGROUND

Monkeypox (MPX) is a viral zoonotic disease that belongs to the Orthopoxvirus genus of the Poxviridae family. Human disease was first identified in 1970 in a 9-month-old boy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and since then most cases have been reported across Central and West Africa.

Monkeypox spreads between persons through direct contact with an infectious rash, body fluids, or by respiratory secretions during prolonged, face-to-face contact and contaminated environment.

Monkeypox usually presents as a mild illness that resolves without treatment and most people recover within a few weeks.

MOHW RULES

Persons who are classified as confirmed, suspected, probable cases or close contacts with Monkey pox **will be required** to quarantine.

CASE DEFINITIONS**Suspected Case**

A person of any age presenting with an unexplained acute rash

AND

One or more of the following signs or symptoms: headache, acute onset of fever ($>38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$); lymphadenopathy (swollen lymph nodes), myalgia (muscle and body aches), back pain, and asthenia (profound weakness)

AND

for which the following common causes of acute rash do not explain the clinical picture: varicella zoster, herpes zoster, measles, Zika, dengue, chikungunya, herpes simplex, bacterial skin infections, disseminated gonococcus infection, primary or secondary syphilis, chancroid, lymphogranuloma venereum, granuloma inguinale, molluscum contagiosum, allergic reaction (*e.g.*, to plants)

Probable case

A person meeting the case definition for a suspected case

AND

FIRST SCHEDULE, *contd.*

One or more of the following:

has an epidemiological link (face-to-face exposure, including health workers without eye and respiratory protection); direct physical contact with skin or skin lesions, including sexual contact.

OR

Contact with contaminated materials such as clothing, bedding, or utensils from a probable or confirmed case of monkeypox in the 21 days before symptom onset.

OR

Reported travel history to a monkeypox endemic country or to any country with an active monkeypox outbreak, in the 21 days before symptom onset.

Confirmed case

A case meeting the definition of either a suspected or probable case and is laboratory confirmed for monkeypox virus by detection of unique sequences of viral DNA by real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

CONFIRMED, SUSPECTED AND PROBABLE CASES

Confirmed, suspected and probable cases are **for isolation** and this can occur at home or public facility or hospital. A quarantine order will be served by the *Medical Officer of Health or designate* to persons meeting this criteria.

The location for isolation will be determined by the following criteria:

- Clinical presentation and presence of risk factors (Refer to MOHW Clinical management protocol).
- Appropriate caregivers are available at home.
- There is a separate space with bathroom access where the client can recover without sharing.
- Resources for access to food and other necessities are available.
- Presence of vulnerable household members who may be at increased risk of infection (*e.g.*, older people and people with severe chronic health conditions, such as heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes).

Isolation will continue until all lesions have resolved, the scabs have fallen off, and a fresh layer of intact skin has formed. **This may be up to 2 weeks** or longer in persons who are immunocompromised.

FIRST SCHEDULE, *contd.***ADVICE TO CLIENT**

- **Do not leave** the quarantine facility except as required for emergencies or follow-up medical care.
- Friends, family or others without an essential need to be in the home should not visit. Visitation in public facility will only be allowed if considered critical and will be planned and supervised.
- Avoid close contact with others.
- Avoid close contact with pets in the home and other animals.
- Do not engage in sexual activity that involves direct physical contact.
- Do not share potentially contaminated items, such as bed linens, clothing, towels, and wash cloths, drinking glasses or eating utensils.
- Routinely clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces and items, such as counters or light switches.
- Wear well-fitting medical mask (i.e. source control) at all times as possible, and especially when in contact with others.
- Avoid use of contact lenses to prevent inadvertent infection of the eye.
- Avoid shaving rash-covered areas of the body as this can lead to spread of the virus.
- If possible, use a separate bathroom if there are others who live in the same household.

HAND HYGIENE

- Hand hygiene must be performed using with an alcohol-based hand rub or hand washing with soap and water by persons with Monkeypox and household contacts after touching rash material, clothing, linens, or environmental surfaces that may have had contact with rash material.
- Regularly perform hand hygiene especially before and after using the bathroom or taking meals.

SOURCE CONTROL

- Cover all skin rashes to the extent possible by wearing long sleeves or long pants.

FIRST SCHEDULE, *contd.*

- Gloves can be considered for covering rash on the hands when not in isolation such as when receiving medical care.
- Use well-fitting source control (e.g., medical mask), if close contact with others cannot be avoided, such as when receiving medical care.
- When possible, the person with Monkeypox should change their own bandages and handle contaminated linens while wearing disposable gloves, followed by immediate hand washing after removing gloves.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

- During isolation at home, persons with Monkeypox should clean and disinfect the spaces they occupy regularly to limit household contamination.
- Do not dry dust or sweep as this may spread infectious particles.
- Wet cleaning methods are preferred such as disinfectant wipes, sprays, and mopping.
- Use thick industrial gloves and wear a mask when cleaning.

LAUNDRY

- Keep soiled laundry separate in a bag or container.
- Use thick industrial gloves and wear a mask when separating laundry.
- Soiled laundry should never be shaken or handled in a manner that may spread infectious particles.
- Wash laundry in a standard washing machine with detergent.

CLOSE CONTACTS

Close contacts are for quarantine and this can occur at home or public facility. A quarantine order will be served by the *Medical Officer of Health or designate* to persons meeting this criteria.

The location for quarantine will be determined by the following criteria:

- Appropriate caregivers are available at home.

FIRST SCHEDULE, *contd.*

- There is a separate space with bathroom access where the client can recover without sharing.
- Resources for access to food and other necessities are available.
- Presence of vulnerable household members who may be at increased risk of infection (e.g., older people and people with severe chronic health conditions, such as heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes).

Definition of a close contact:

Person who has been in direct contact with a confirmed case with unhealed skin lesions, oral/respiratory secretions, urine, faeces, vomitus, blood, skin/skin intimate contact, sexual contact

or

Person who has shared a common space such as living in the same household, sharing a room with a confirmed case since the onset of fever, or within 24h of the onset of the rash.

The MOHW interim recommendations is for quarantine of close contacts for a duration of **ten (10) days** from the last contact with the confirmed, suspected or probable case to minimize risk of onward transmission.

ADVICE TO PERSON IN QUARANTINE

- **Do not leave** the quarantine facility except as required for emergencies or follow-up medical care.
- Friends, family or others without an essential need to be in the home should not visit. Visitation in public facility will only be allowed if considered critical and will be planned and supervised.
- Avoid close physical contact with young children, pregnant women and immunocompromised persons for the period of quarantine, where possible.
- Avoid close contact with pets in the home and other animals.
- Do not engage in sexual activity that involves direct physical contact.
- Routinely clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces and items, such as counters or light switches.

FIRST SCHEDULE, *contd.***HEALTH CHECKS**

- Check temperature twice daily with a digital thermometer for the period of quarantine
 - o If symptoms develop, contacts must self-isolate and inform the health department and their physician.

HAND HYGIENE

- Hand hygiene must be performed regularly using with an alcohol-based hand rub or hand washing with soap and water.

SOURCE CONTROL

- Wear well-fitting medical mask (*i.e.* source control) at all times as possible, and especially when in contact with others.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

- Clean and disinfect the spaces regularly to limit household contamination.
- Do not dry dust or sweep.
- Wet cleaning methods are preferred such as disinfectant wipes, sprays, and mopping.
- Use thick industrial gloves and wear a mask when cleaning.

LAUNDRY

- Keep used laundry separate in a bag or container.
- Use thick industrial gloves and wear a mask when separating laundry.
- Used laundry should never be shaken or handled in a manner that may spread infectious particles.
- Wash laundry in a standard washing machine with detergent.

SECOND SCHEDULE

(Paragraph 5)

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

QUARANTINE ORDER

MONKEYPOX IS A RARE VIRAL DISEASE CAUSED BY THE MONKEY POX VIRUS. INFECTION DUE TO THE MONKEYPOX VIRUS TYPICALLY RESULT IN THE FORMATION OF LESIONS, SKIN NODULES OR DISSEMINATED RASH. MONKEYPOX IS ENDEMIC IN SOME COUNTRIES IN AFRICA. A MULTI-COUNTRY OUTBREAK OF MONKEYPOX HAS BEEN ONGOING IN SEVERAL REGIONS OF THE WORLD SINCE MAY 2022. PRIOR TO THE MULTICOUNTRY OUTBREAK, MONKEYPOX HAD NEVER BEEN DIAGNOSED IN JAMAICA. THE OCCURRENCE OF MONKEYPOX DISEASE IN JAMAICA THEREFORE REPRESENTS AN EXOTIC EVENT REQUIRING EXTRA-ORDINARY MEASURES FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT OF JAMAICA.

CONTROL MEASURES FOR PERSONS INFECTED WITH THE MONKEYPOX VIRUS

You have been diagnosed with monkeypox disease. Infection by the monkeypox virus is an acute infection associated with skin lesions that may present with mild, moderate, or severe illness and may be fatal. The symptoms include fever, headache, back pain, muscle aches, lymphadenopathy, exhaustion and skin rash. Symptoms may appear anywhere from **five (5) to twenty-one (21) days** after exposure to the Monkeypox virus and last up to **2–4 weeks**. The virus may be transmitted by contact with respiratory secretions or fluid or material from the lesions. The monkeypox virus is transmitted by spread through close contact with an infected person. If the monkeypox virus spreads in the community, it would have severe public health consequences.

In accordance with your exposure or diagnosis and the threat of spread to the population, the Medical Officer (Health), Medical Officer or public health officer in accordance with the MOHW Monkeypox outbreak management protocols and Orders under the Public Health Act is implementing the following public health control measures.

These measures include quarantine and monitoring and supervision by the _____ Health Department. These measures include contact with the _____ Health Department at least twice daily to monitor for signs and symptoms of monkeypox, for _____ days of isolation. You are required to remain in isolation until all skin lesions are healed.

SECOND SCHEDULE, *contd.*

If you fail to comply with these control measures, you shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction before a Judge of a Parish Court in the case of a first offence to a fine not exceeding \$250,000 or in default of payment of the fine, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months and in the case of a second or subsequent offence to a fine not exceeding \$500,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both such fine and imprisonment as outlined in the **Public Health Act**.

REQUIREMENTS

You must comply with these control measures for _____ days with effect from _____.

During this time you are required to: (Tick where appropriate)

1. Remain in isolation at the designated location _____ if you are classified as a confirmed, suspected or probable case of Monkeypox ☐
2. Remain in quarantine at the designated location _____ if you are classified as a close contact of someone identified as a confirmed, suspected or probable case of Monkeypox ☐
 - o In the case of (2), Isolate yourself from others immediately if any symptoms develop and call the _____ Health Department at _____ ☐

During the period of Hospital or Public facility Isolation, you are required to remain at the designated location and must comply with the instructions of the medical personnel managing your case ☐

During the period of quarantine or home isolation, you are required to:

- Remain at (_____) unless specifically authorized to leave by the Medical Officer (Health) ☐
- Be available for an in-person visit once per day by a health care worker ☐
- Report your temperature and symptoms a minimum of 2 time(s) per day to the Health Department nurse by phone ☐
- Keep a record of all visitors to your home and public places you visit if permitted by the Medical Officer (Health) on the form provided ☐

SECOND SCHEDULE, *contd.*

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| - Maintain a 6-feet (1m) distance from others | ☐ |
| - NOT take any form of public transportation (<i>e.g.</i> aircrafts, buses, taxi, car-pooling, <i>etc.</i>) | ☐ |
| - NOT go to public places (<i>e.g.</i> shopping centers, movie theatres, market, church) or public gatherings | ☐ |
| - NOT go to your workplace (working from home is permitted) | ☐ |

Notwithstanding the requirements detailed above, the Medical Officer (Health) may impose new or different requirements if the Medical Officer (Health) is of the opinion that circumstances have changed to necessitate the imposition of new or different requirements.

The staff of this Health Department remains available to provide assistance and counselling to you concerning your diagnosis of monkeypox virus and compliance with these control measures. Please refer to the Health Alert Card regarding information on accessing the public health system.

This Quarantine Order is Issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Ministry of Health and Wellness of Jamaica by:

Name of the Medical Officer (Health)
Or officer authorised by the Medical
Officer (Health)

Signature of the Medical Officer (Health)
Or officer authorised by the Medical
Officer (Health)

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

[] I will comply with the Terms and Conditions of this Quarantine Order.

Name of Client

Signature

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Dated this 14th day of July, 2022.

CHRISTOPHER TUFTON
Minister of Health and Wellness.