

Ministry of Health

# TPoxx® Information Sheet

Version 2.0 – September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## Highlights of Changes:

- Addition of Clade I and II information(p.1)
- Update to Treatment of Mpox section(p.1)

This guidance provides basic information only. This document is not intended to provide or take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, or legal advice.

The virus that causes mpox is distinguished by two separate genetic clades:

- **Clade I:** Sub-clade Ia is endemic to Central Africa and causes more severe illness and deaths than clade II. Sub-clade Ib emerged in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2023 and is spreading through direct contact, primarily through heterosexual networks.
- **Clade II:** This clade is endemic to West Africa and is associated with less severe illness and deaths than clade I. Sub-clade IIb was responsible for the 2022 global mpox outbreak that primarily affected adults who identified as men who have sex with other men.

Ontario continues to monitor for cases of mpox, (clade I and II), and is working collaboratively with health care providers, Public Health Ontario (PHO) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to address health risk(s). Guidance will be updated as new information becomes available and epidemiology evolves.

Information related to mpox in this document is based on the current epidemiology in Ontario and evidence and recommendations related to clade II.

## Treatment for mpox

There is no specific proven treatment for mpox. There is an antiviral medication authorized by Health Canada called Tecovirmat (TPoxx®) for human smallpox disease. TPoxx® is an antiviral medication developed to treat smallpox, but it may also be effective for Mpox as the viruses are closely related. It works by preventing the virus from multiplying normally and spreading throughout the body. Slowing the virus down allows the body to build up the immune response to fight off the infection.

TPoxx® may be used in adults and children (weighing at least 13 kg or 29 lbs) for the treatment of severe mpox (formerly monkeypox) disease.

TPoxx® is available as a capsule, is taken by mouth within 30 minutes after a full meal of moderate high fat and must be taken twice per day for 14 days. Your health care provider will go over the appropriate plan for your treatment.

The effectiveness of this drug for mpox is still being studied. There is some data that has shown TPoxx® to have some effect on those who are experiencing symptoms of mpox.

A clinical trial to evaluate the effectiveness and safety of TPoxx® for the treatment of Mpox infection compared to placebo is underway in Canada and internationally. For more information visit: <https://www.hivnet.ubc.ca/study/ctn-338-platinum-can/>

## Eligibility for TPoxx®

**There is a very limited supply of TPoxx® available in Ontario from the federal government. It is currently being used to treat individuals who are severely ill/disabled due to mpox infection or at high risk for severe disease.**

If you think you have symptoms of mpox, contact your health care provider.

## TPoxx® Is Safe and Effective

Yes. TPoxx® has been shown to be safe with minor side effects in clinical trials.

It is an authorized drug for use in Canada by the regulator, Health Canada.

There is limited data on how well it works in treating mpox infections in humans, but it has been shown to be effective in treating mpox infections in animals.

TPoxx® may interact with other medications. You should talk to your health care provider about potential complications you may experience when taking TPoxx® with other medications.

## TPoxx® Should Not Be Used In The Following Cases

TPoxx® should not be used in:

- Children under 13 kilograms (kg) or 29 pounds (lbs) in weight; and
- Persons with a severe allergy or are hypersensitive to this drug OR to any components of the drug. A list of ingredients can be found in the [product monograph](#).

The safety and efficacy of TPoxx® have not been studied in children and adolescents 17 years of age and younger, persons who are pregnant or breastfeeding, or those over 65 years of age

Please talk to your health care provider about the potential benefits and risks of getting this treatment.

## TPoxx® Side Effects

TPoxx®, like all medicines, can cause side effects, although not everyone will experience them.

The most frequently reported side effects for TPoxx® are headache, nausea, abdominal pain, and vomiting. Other less common side effects may include dry mouth, joint pain, itchiness, rash, mood changes, and a “pins and needles” sensation.

## Contact Your Health Care Provider

Call your health care provider or go to the nearest emergency department if you experience any of the following symptoms after receiving TPoxx®:

- Hives
- Swelling of the face or mouth
- Trouble breathing
- Cardiac symptoms such as chest pain, shortness of breath or heart palpitations

## Additional Information

For more information on mpox or TPoxx®, please see resources below, or talk to your health care provider.

Ontario Ministry of Health - [Mpox \(monkeypox\)](#)

Public Health Ontario - [Mpox \(formerly known as monkeypox\)](#)

Public Health Agency of Canada - [Mpox \(monkeypox\)](#)

World Health Organization – [Mpox \(monkeypox\)](#)

World Health Organization – [Mpox \(monkeypox\) – Q & A](#)

Centers for Disease Control – [Mpox](#)