

## ENHANCED EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SUMMARY

# Mpox in Ontario: January 1 to May 31, 2026

Updated: June 2026

## Introduction

In 2022, the global spread of clade IIb mpox virus (MPXV) resulted in outbreaks in countries where the disease was previously never reported, including Canada. Following its introduction to Ontario in May 2022, a large provincial outbreak involving 692 cases predominantly affected adult men who identified as gay or bisexual, as well as men who reported having sex with men (gbMSM). Commonly reported risk factors included having had a new, anonymous, and/or more than one sexual partner. Since its introduction in Ontario in 2022, there has been ongoing mpox transmission in Ontario with fluctuations in annual case counts from 2023 to 2025.

A new and more severe strain of mpox (clade Ib) emerged in Africa in 2023. Since then, travel-associated clade Ib cases have been detected in several countries outside of Africa, including Canada. While travel-associated clade Ib mpox cases have been reported in Ontario, the overall risk of transmission of this clade in Ontario remains low.<sup>1</sup>

Provincial case definitions for mpox can be found in Appendix 1 of the Ministry of Health (MOH)'s Infectious Disease Protocol for [Smallpox and other Orthopoxviruses, including mpox](#)<sup>2</sup>. For further information regarding mpox and cases reported between 2022 and 2024, visit PHO's [mpox webpage](#)<sup>3</sup> and the MOH's [mpox webpage](#)<sup>4</sup>.

The following provides an epidemiologic summary of confirmed mpox cases in Ontario using data from Ontario's integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) as of **June 10, 2026**.

## Key Messages

- Between January 1 and May 31, 2026, 25 confirmed mpox cases were reported in Ontario, which is less than the number of cases reported during the same period in 2024 and 2025 (57 and 64 cases, respectively). Of mpox cases reported to date in 2026, 22/25 (88.0%) are clade IIb and 3/25 (12.0%) are clade Ib.
- Mpox continues to predominantly affect gbMSM with the most commonly reported risk factors continuing to be having a new, anonymous, and/or more than one sexual partner.
- Of the mpox cases reported since 2023, the majority (440/537; 82.1%) are either unvaccinated or have received only one dose of Imvamune<sup>®</sup> vaccine. As of June 10, 2026, of the 45,982 Ontarians who have received one dose of Imvamune<sup>®</sup> vaccine, only 41.8% have received their second dose.
- Health care providers and Public Health Units (PHUs) should continue to recommend that [eligible](#)<sup>3</sup> individuals complete a two-dose Imvamune<sup>®</sup> vaccination series. An additional/booster dose is not recommended.

- Health care providers should also consider testing individuals for mpox who present with compatible risk factors and clinical evidence. Individuals who have received at least one dose of Imvamune® vaccine can still be infected with the virus but may have a milder clinical presentation. See Public Health Ontario’s [Test Information Sheet](#)<sup>5</sup> for more information.

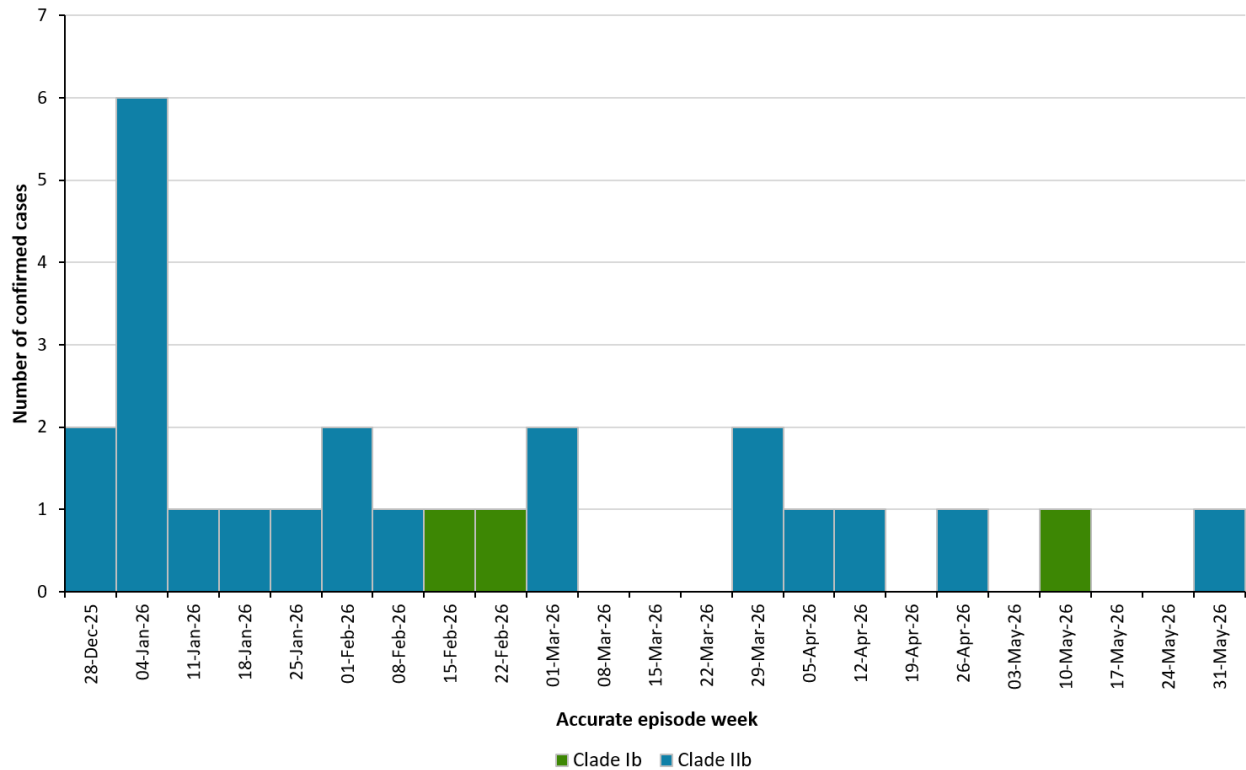
## Case Characteristics

### Trends Over Time

Between January 1 to May 31, 2026, a total of 25 laboratory-confirmed mpox cases were reported in Ontario ([Figure 1](#)). Weekly case counts have remained consistently low with 1 to 2 cases reported per week since early January, with the highest number of cases (n = 6) reported during the week of January 4 to 10, 2026.

In both 2024 and 2025, the incidence of mpox peaked in July (n=53) and June (n=35), respectively, before declining through the remainder of the year. In 2025, there was an increase in cases in the winter with a second, but smaller, peak in November (n=22). Since November 2025, monthly case counts have been steadily declining with just 2 cases reported in May 2026 compared to 13 in May 2024 and 25 in May 2025 ([Figure 2](#)).

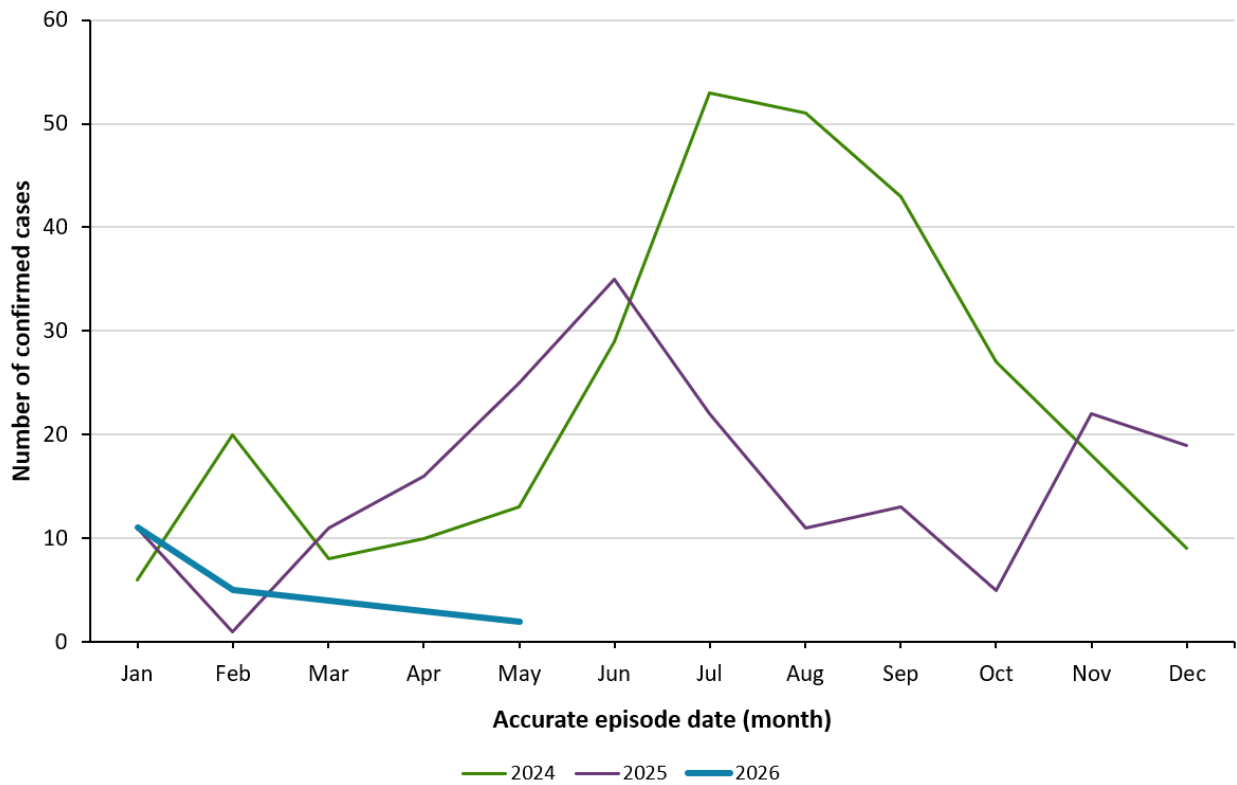
**Figure 1: Confirmed Mpox Cases by Accurate Episode Week and MPXV Clade: Ontario, January 1 to May 31, 2026**



**Data Source:** Ontario Ministry of Health’s integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS)

**Note:** Accurate episode week is derived from the Accurate Episode Date and shows the start date of that week. The Accurate Episode Date is defined in the [Data Caveats](#). Due to potential delays between symptom onset, reporting of laboratory test results, and data entry into iPHIS, case counts for the last few weeks may be incomplete and should be interpreted with caution.

**Figure 2: Confirmed Mpox Cases by Month of Accurate Episode Date: Ontario, 2024-2026**



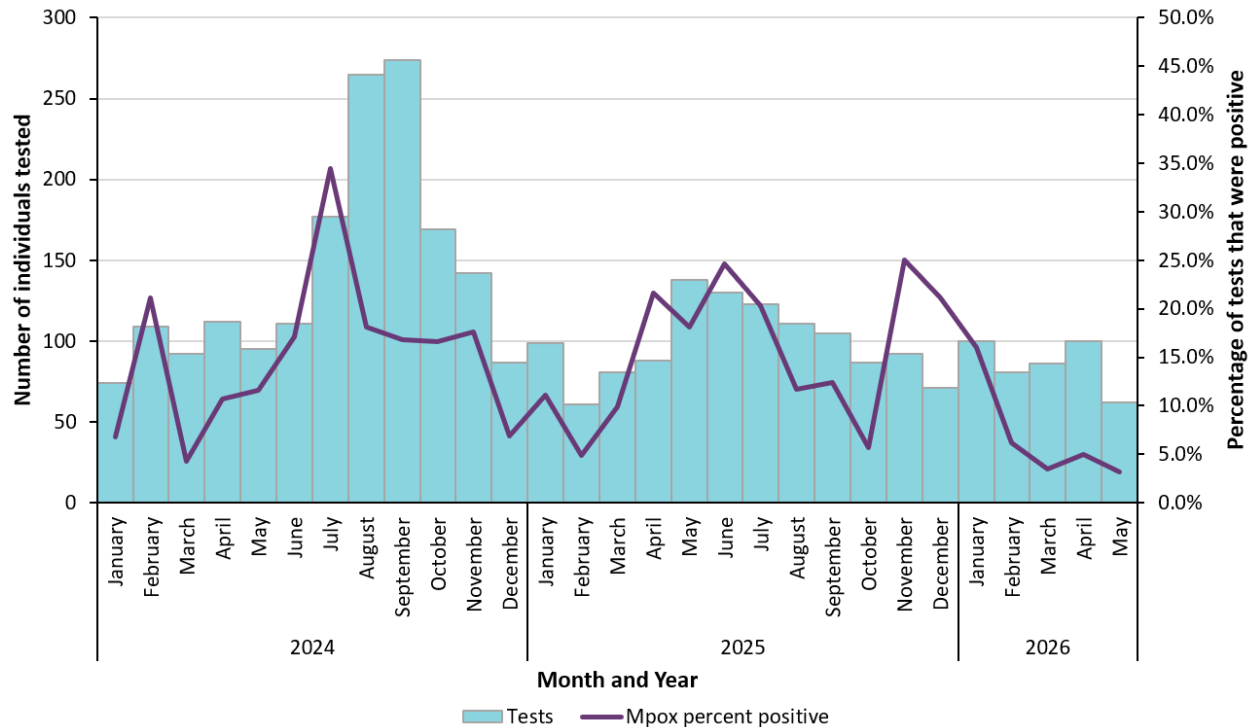
**Data Source:** iPHIS

**Note:** Accurate Episode Date is defined in the [Data Caveats](#). Due to potential delays between symptom onset, reporting of laboratory test results, and data entry into iPHIS, case counts for the most recent month may be incomplete and should be interpreted with caution.

## Percent Positivity

Mpox percent positivity is the percentage of all mpox virus tests completed at Public Health Ontario’s laboratory that yield a positive result. Percent positivity peaked in 2024 in July (34.5%), and in June (24.6%) and November (25.0%) in 2025. In contrast, 2026 to date shows lower positivity, with a steady decline from 16.0% in January to 3.2% in May despite relatively stable testing volumes.

**Figure 3: Number of Individuals Tested for Mpox and Percent Positive for Mpox by Month and Year: Public Health Ontario, January 1, 2024 to May 31, 2026**



**Data Source:** Public Health Ontario Laboratory Information Management System

**Note:** Excludes individuals with invalid, indeterminate, or pending test results. Month was assigned using sample collection date, if provided, and login date otherwise. Includes repeat positive tests from nine individuals; a repeat test (positive or negative) was counted for an individual if separated by greater than six weeks from their initial test. As Public Health Ontario is not the sole provider of mpox testing in Ontario, data may not be a complete representation of individuals tested in the province. For further details, see [Technical Notes](#).

## Sex, Age, Vaccination Status, and Severity

All mpox cases reported from January 1 to May 31, 2026 were male and 68.0% were between the ages of 20-39 years. Just under half (48.0%) of mpox cases reported during this period have not received any doses of mpox vaccine. Two hospitalizations and no deaths have been reported.

Of cases reported, 22/25 (88.0%) had at least one risk factor. Of these, 7/22 (31.8%) cases reported travel outside of Ontario during the 21 days prior to symptom onset suggesting that the majority of cases acquired their infection within Ontario (i.e., ongoing local transmission). Two of the clade Ib cases reported travel, while travel information is pending for the third case.

**Table 1: Characteristics of Confirmed Mpox Cases: Ontario, January 1 to May 31, 2026**

Case Characteristics	January 1 to May 31, 2026 n (%)
<b>Sex*</b>	
Male	25 (100.0)
Female	0 (0.0)
Unknown	0 (0.0)
<b>Age Group</b>	
< 20 years	1 (4.0)
20 – 29 years	5 (20.0)
30 – 39 years	12 (48.0)
40 – 49 years	5 (20.0)
≥ 50 years	2 (8.0)
<b>Vaccination Status</b>	
Unvaccinated	12 (48.0)
1 dose of Imvamune®	7 (28.0)
2 doses of Imvamune®	6 (24.0)
<b>MPXV Clade</b>	
Clade Ib	3 (12.0)
Clade IIb	22 (88.0)
<b>Severity</b>	
Hospitalized	2 (8.0)
Death	0 (0.0)
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>25 (100.0)</b>

**Data Sources:** iPHIS and Digital Health Immunization Repository

\*The categories 'Male' and 'Female' reflect an individual's internal and individual experience of gender and not necessarily their sex assignment at birth. Case counts and details may change based on updates made by public health units.

## Geography

Of the 25 confirmed mpox cases reported between January 1 to May 31, 2026, the majority (19/25; 76.0%) were reported by Toronto Public Health; the remaining 6/25 (24.0%) cases were reported by four other public health units (PHUs). 24/29 (82.8%) PHUs have not reported any confirmed mpox cases since January 1, 2026 and are not included in Table 2.

**Table 2: Diagnosing Public Health Unit of Confirmed Mpox Cases: Ontario, January 1 to May 31, 2026**

Public Health Unit	January 1 to May 31, 2026 n (%)
Toronto Public Health	19 (76.0)
Middlesex-London Health Unit	2 (8.0)
Peel Public Health	2 (8.0)
City of Hamilton Public Health Services	1 (4.0)
Halton Region Public Health	1 (4.0)
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>25 (100.0)</b>

Data Source: iPHIS

# Technical Notes

## Data Sources

- The data for this report were based on information entered in:
  - the Ontario Ministry of Health’s integrated Public Health Information System as of **June 10, 2026**.
  - the Public Health Ontario Laboratory Information Management System as of **June 5, 2026**.
  - the Digital Health Immunization Repository as of **June 10, 2026**.
- iPHIS is a dynamic disease reporting system that allows ongoing updates to previously entered data. As a result, data extracted from iPHIS represent a snapshot at the time of extraction and may differ from previous or subsequent reports.

## Data Caveats

- These data only represent confirmed cases of mpox reported to public health and recorded in iPHIS. As a result, all case counts are subject to varying degrees of underreporting due to a variety of factors, such as disease awareness and medical care seeking behaviours that may depend on severity of illness, clinical practices, and changes in laboratory testing and reporting behaviours.
- Only mpox cases meeting the confirmed case classification as listed in the [Ontario MOH surveillance case definitions](#)<sup>2</sup> are included in the reported case counts.
- Cases of mpox are reported based on the Episode Date, which is an estimate of the onset date of disease for a case. In order to determine this date, the following hierarchy exists in iPHIS: Onset Date > Specimen Collection Date > Lab Test Date > Reported Date.
  - For example: If an Onset Date exists, it will be used as the Episode Date. If Onset Date is not available, then the next available date in the hierarchy (i.e., Specimen Collection Date) will be used, and so on.
- Case counts by geography are based on the diagnosing health unit (DHU). DHU refers to the case’s public health unit of residence at the time of illness onset or report to public health and not necessarily the location of exposure.
- On January 1, 2025, a number of public health units merged:
  - Brant County Health Unit and Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit have merged into Grand Erie Public Health;
  - Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit, Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox and Addington Health Unit and Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit have merged into South East Health Unit;
  - Porcupine Health Unit and Timiskaming Health Unit have merged into Northeastern Public Health.
  - Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit and Peterborough County-City Health Unit have merged into Lakelands Public Health Unit.

- The vaccination status of mpox cases was determined as follows:
  - Unvaccinated: Did not receive any doses of Imvamune® vaccine or their Episode Date occurred within 14 days of receiving their first dose.
  - 1 Dose of Imvamune®: Their Episode Date occurred more than 14 days after receiving their first dose or their Episode Date occurred within 14 days of receiving their second dose.
  - 2 Doses of Imvamune®: Their Episode Date occurred more than 14 days after receiving their second dose.
- Hospitalized cases include those with an Intervention Type Description of 'Hospitalization' or 'ICU' and an Intervention Start Date that occurs on or after the case's Episode Date.
- Fatal cases include those with an Outcome of 'Fatal' and Type of Death is not captured as 'Reportable Disease was Unrelated to Cause of Death'.
- Cases for which the Disposition Status was reported as ENTERED IN ERROR, DOES NOT MEET DEFINITION, DUPLICATE-DO NOT USE, or any variation on these values, were excluded from this analysis.
- The potential for duplicates exists because duplicate sets were not identified and excluded unless they were already resolved at either the local or provincial level prior to data extraction from iPHIS.
- Number of new individuals tested for mpox excludes individuals with invalid, indeterminate or pending test results. For individuals with multiple test results, the following hierarchy was used to assign a single result: Detected > Indeterminate > Not detected > Invalid > Pending. For multiple results at the same level in the hierarchy, the earliest result was used.
- Testing data includes repeat positive tests; a repeat test (positive or negative) was counted for an individual if separated by greater than six weeks from their initial test.
- Data on hospitalizations and fatalities may be incomplete for cases reported in the most recent week(s) and should be interpreted with caution. This information may be updated in subsequent reports pending further data collection and entry by public health units.

## References

1. Public Health Agency of Canada. Mpox: Public health management of human cases and associated human contacts in Canada [Internet]. Ottawa, ON: King's Printer for Canada; 2026 [cited 2026 June 11]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/mpox/health-professionals/management-cases-contacts.html#a7>
2. Ontario. Ministry of Health. Ontario public health standards: requirements for programs, services and accountability. Infectious disease protocol. Appendix 1: case definitions and disease-specific information. Disease: Smallpox and other Orthopoxviruses including mpox (monkeypox). Effective: April 2024 [Internet]. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; 2024 [cited 2026 May 6]. Available from: <https://www.ontario.ca/files/2024-04/moh-ophs-smallpox-en-2024-04-01.pdf>
3. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Mpox. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; 2024 [cited 2026 May 6]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Diseases-and-Conditions/Infectious-Diseases/Vector-Borne-Zoonotic-Diseases/Mpox>
4. Ontario. Ministry of Health. Mpox (monkeypox). Effective: Feb 2024 [Internet]. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; 2024 [cited 2026 May 6]. Available from: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/mpox-monkeypox>
5. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Monkeypox Virus. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; 2024 [cited 2026 May 6]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Laboratory-Services/Test-Information-Index/Monkeypox-Virus>

## Citation

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