



**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF PORT OF SPAIN**

Health, Safety and Environment Team
c/o Archbishop's House, 27 Maraval Road, Port of Spain

**REGARDING THE
CONFIRMED CASES OF
MONKEYPOX**

BULLETIN #32

Issued 14th July 2023

As of July 12th, the Ministry of Health of Trinidad & Tobago has reported two confirmed cases of Monkeypox (Mpox). The necessary isolation measures and contact tracing are in effect.

Mpox is a viral illness that is spread via respiratory droplets and direct physical contact with an infected person through sexual intercourse, hugging, kissing, etc.

Symptoms range from fever and other prodromal symptoms e.g. chills, painful, swollen lymph glands, malaise and muscle aches or headaches which can occur before or not at all, before lesions in the mouth or skin rash appear.

Further accurate and helpful information is available below:

<https://health.gov.tt/monkeypox-frequently-asked-questions>

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/mpox/if-sick/transmission.html>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website highlights that the risk is considered low for getting Mpox by touching objects, fabrics, and hard surfaces that have been used by someone with Mpox and not disinfected, such as clothing, bedding, towels, plastic items and other items that may come into close contact with our bodies.

The HSE encourages everyone to maintain vigilance with personal and hand hygiene.

Please stay at home if you experience any of the above symptoms. Additionally, anyone who develops the above symptoms, or any flu-like symptoms is encouraged to stay at home and seek medical care.

At this time, there is no directive to suspend or restrict in-person worship.

With the removal of the HSE Team's restrictions (Bulletin #31), each Parish Priest, Head of Religious Community, Residential or Care Home etc. is now asked to use his/her discretion to mitigate against specific risks in his/her community.

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