

Guidelines from French Human Milk bank Association (ADLF) Regarding monkeypox and milk donation

June 2022

Context

- Monkeypox (MPXV) is caused by a rare virus with an incubation period of between 5 and 21 days. It is transmitted by
 - ✓ close contact with an affected person, contact with skin lesions (bubbles, crusts) or mucous membranes (oral, genital, conjunctiva), biological fluids (saliva), exposure to coughing or sneezing (droplets),
 - ✓ indirect contact with clothing, bedding, linen, or dishes used by an affected person.
- Transmission during pregnancy, via the placenta or during childbirth during contact with biological fluids, is possible but the risk has not been well quantified. Maternal-fetal/perinatal transmission is possible and responsible for severe infection in newborns.
- There are no reported cases of transmission through products of the human body.
- First symptoms are fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, chills, extreme fatigue. A rash appears after 1 to 5 days, which may look like chickenpox (vesicles). Initially, raised spots appear which later turn into blisters. These eventually scab over and fall off. The rash often appears on the face, hands, or genitals.
- Biological diagnosis: PCR specific for MPXV.
- Evolution: most often favorable in 2-3 weeks, but there are severe infections.
- The French High Committee for Public Health (HCSP) considered that there is a non-negligible risk of 1) imported cases (Congo, Cameroon, Nigeria) and 2) appearance of cases without any notion of travel.
- The French High Authority for Health (HAS, May 20, 2022) recommended vaccination against smallpox (Imvanex[®], within 4-14 days after contact), of adults whose contact with an affected person is considered to be at risk of transmission.
- It is likely that MPXV is transmissible through products of human origin. This risk is theoretical and leads to a temporary contraindication of donations in the event of infection. The European Center for Disease Control (ECDC) recommended that all potential donors of products derived from the human body be carefully questioned regarding contact with confirmed or suspected cases.
- No data available on the impact of pasteurization on this virus, which is quite resistant.

What to do for donors

- All donors should be asked about close contacts
- Milk bank staff must be informed about this new emergence and be made aware of identifying risk factors based on the pre-donation questionnaire. Additional oral questions should be asked of the donor if there is any doubt, particularly in relation to risky contact with a person who has had a blistering eruption.
- Donors must be informed of the need to report any infection or any suggestive symptom (fever, rash).
- Persons identified as CONTACT of a confirmed, probable or suspected case should not donate for **21 days** from the date of last contact.
- People with CONFIRMED INFECTION should not donate for **42 days** from the date of onset of signs (= twice the maximum incubation period).
- Vaccinated persons (Imvanex[®]) are excluded from donation for a period of 4 weeks after the last dose of vaccine. Furthermore, if a vaccinated donor again becomes a case-contact, she must not donate for 21 days from the date of the last contact.

Written by: Pr JC PICAUD, on behalf of the ADLF board.

Validation: ADLF board (Boscher Cécile, Buffin R, Demoulin Delphine, Lamireau D, Picaud JC, Rigourd V)

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To get more information :

- Avis HCSP du 24 mai 2022, relatif à la conduite à tenir autour d'un cas suspect, probable ou confirmé
- Avis HCSP du 24 mai 2022, relatif à la conduite à tenir autour d'un cas suspect, probable ou confirmé d'infection à Monkeypox virus. <https://www.hcsp.fr/explore.cgi/avisrapports>

- Avis HCSP du 9 juin 2022 relatif aux mesures de prévention des risques de transmission du virus Monkeypox par les produits sanguins labiles, les greffons et autres éléments du corps humain
<https://www.hcsp.fr/explore.cgi/avisrapports>
- Site internet de Santé publique France (SpF) <https://www.santepubliquefrance.fr/maladies-et-traumatismes/maladies-transmissibles-de-l-animal-a-l-homme/monkeypox/donnees/>.