



# Media Release

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July 8, 2022

## First confirmed case of monkeypox in Grey-Bruce

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is reporting the first laboratory-confirmed case of monkeypox in the area.

The person diagnosed with the illness resides in Grey-Bruce, but most likely acquired the infection while visiting the Greater Toronto Area. The individual is currently self-isolating at home.

Health unit staff has determined that the individual had only one close contact in the area and is following up with that person.

“Public Health would like to stress that although a case of monkeypox has been confirmed in Grey-Bruce, the risk to the community remains very low,” says Grey-Bruce Medical Officer of Health Dr. Ian Arra.

“Only individuals who have had close, direct contact with a person with monkeypox are at risk of acquiring the infection. This is not a virus that spreads easily. Anyone experiencing symptoms is advised to self-isolate at home and contact their healthcare provider immediately.”

Human monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease, which, historically, has rarely been reported outside of Africa. However, the virus has been confirmed in more than two dozen countries, including Canada, during the current, multi-country monkeypox outbreak.

The virus was first reported in Canada on May 19, 2022. As of July 6, Canadian provinces and territories have publicly [reported a combined 358 cases](#), according to the Public Health Agency of Canada. Just over 100 of those cases have been reported in Ontario.

Monkeypox infections are typically mild, with most people recovering on their own in two to four weeks. However, the virus can cause severe illness and death in some individuals.

[Symptoms of monkeypox](#), which usually develop five to 21 days after exposure, occur in two stages. Stage 1 symptoms can include fever, chills, headache, muscle pain, swollen

A healthier future for all.

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lymph nodes and lethargy. A rash or lesions develop in the second stage, usually within one to three days after the fever starts. The rash typically begins on the face before spreading to other parts of the body.

Monkeypox can [spread](#) from person to person through close contact with an infected individual's bodily fluids or skin lesions. It can also be transmitted when a person comes into contact with contaminated clothing or bedding.

A person is considered infectious from the start of their symptoms and until the rash/lesions have crusted over and the scabs have dried up and fallen off.

All symptomatic individuals are advised to self-isolate at home. Anyone diagnosed with monkeypox must isolate until all scabs have fallen off and have healed.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit continues to closely monitor the monkeypox situation.

More information is available at [publichealthontario.ca](http://publichealthontario.ca).

**For More Information:**

To connect with the medical officer of health or the program manager, please contact:  
Denis Langlois, Communications Co-ordinator,  
Grey Bruce Health Unit,  
519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 ext. 1315,  
[Communications@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](mailto:Communications@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

FOI Request to Grey Bruce  
Health Unit re. "Monkeypox"  
virus purification



Inbox



Jessica Clark Jul. 20  
to publichealth



To: Grey Bruce Health Unit

101 17th Street East

Owen Sound, ON

N4K 0A5

Phone 519 376 9420 or 1 800 263 3458

Re. FOI request re. "monkeypox virus" purification

Submitted via email to: [publichealth@  
publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](mailto:publichealth@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

July 20, 2022

Dear Freedom of Information Officer,

July 20, 2022

Dear Freedom of Information Officer,

This is a formal request for access to general records, made under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Description of Requested Records:

All studies and/or reports in the possession, custody, or control of the **Grey Bruce Health Unit** describing the purification of any “monkeypox virus” (via maceration, filtration, and use of an ultracentrifuge, also referred to at times as “isolation”) directly from a sample taken from a diseased animal or human, where the patient sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (ie. vero cell line, fetal bovine serum.)

Please note I am not requesting studies or reports where researchers failed to purify the alleged “virus” but instead:

- Cultured an unpurified sample or other unpurified substance and/or
- Performed an amplification test (ie. PCR test) on all the RNA from a patient sample or from a cell



August 15, 2022

Jessica Clark



Dear Jessica Clark,

RE: Release of Information Request  
GBHU – File Number FOI-2022-7

**FINAL DECISION: NO RESPONSIVE RECORDS LOCATED**

I am writing regarding your access request under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (hereafter, 'the act') received by our office .

A search has been conducted in regards to your request and no records responsive to your request have been located.

You may request the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this decision within thirty days from the date of this letter. The Commissioner's address is Suite 1400, 2 Bloor Street East, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 1A8. The appeal fee is \$25.00 (for general record requests) payable by cheque or money order to the Minister of Finance and must be included with your correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Arra".

Dr. Ian Arra  
Medical Officer of Health  
Grey Bruce Health Unit

Hi Jessica Clark,

I am writing in response to your Freedom of Information request, file number FOI-2022-7. As per your request I am sending our response via email; attached is our official letter. I am writing to inform you that a search has been conducted and no records responsive to your request have been located. The attached letter contains further information regarding the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario.

Thank you,

Ryan Ochocki

Privacy Officer Support

Grey Bruce Health Unit