

Meetings at ICAO during the Monkeypox Public Health Emergency

ICAO has reviewed the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines regarding public gatherings in light of the current monkeypox outbreak. [Public health advice for gatherings during the current monkeypox outbreak \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/public-health-advice/en/emergencies/mpox/)

As of 19 August 2024, and based on a thorough risk assessment of current available information, ICAO has determined that there is no necessity to postpone or cancel its scheduled meetings. ICAO will continue to monitor the situation and adhere to WHO's advice for member states, authorities and event organizers. This includes implementing preventive and management measures for mpox through collaboration of the ICAO Medical Services and the Canadian Public Health Authority.

In addition, ICAO has revised its risk mitigation strategies in line with the United Nations Medical Directors' Risk Mitigation Plan for Mpox to further ensure the safety of all participants.

ICAO requires that meeting participants:

- Do not attend a meeting should they exhibit any signs or symptoms compatible with mpox;
- Avoid close contact with individuals showing signs or symptoms compatible with mpox;
- Seek immediate medical attention should they develop any signs or symptoms compatible with mpox;
- Utilize hand disinfection stations provided through ICAO.

Notes:

1. Face masks: Currently, there are no recommendations or requirements for wearing face masks for mpox as it has not been recommended by WHO for mpox. The decision to wear a mask is left to individual discretion as it could mitigate the transmission of other airborne infections or protect high-risk individuals.
2. Signs and symptoms: mpox symptoms may include a skin rash on the face, hands, and feet, fever, swollen lymph nodes, headache, muscle aches and extreme fatigue.
3. Mass vaccination is not recommended for mpox currently. WHO's guidance on mpox vaccination is available [here](#).

Important:

Delegates experiencing symptoms such as a rash, headache, acute fever (>38.5°C), swollen lymph nodes, muscle aches, back pain, or severe weakness, should seek medical attention immediately and notify ICAO Medical Services by contacting +1(514) 315-1955 or medcen@icao.int without delay. All contact will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.