

**Supplementary material 2.** A more detailed overview of clinical, behavioural and epidemiological information of interview participants.

#	Time between symptom onset and clinical diagnosis	Clinical manifestation	Epidemiological link (direct/indirect) *	Close physical contact (incl. household; no sex) -21 days before symptom onset	Sexual contact -21 days before symptom onset					Relevant contact since date of symptom onset		
					Type of partner**	Setting	Type of sex	Exposure site	MPX suspect ***	Type of contact	MPX suspect ***	
1	8 days	Two days of fever, followed by peri-anal lesions without other symptoms.	No known contact with a confirmed positive case.  Attended Darklands festival in Antwerp (Belgium)	Regular contact with stable partner as part of the same household.	1	Stable (n=1)	Private sphere (Belgium)	1) Anal ("bottom and top") 2) Oro-penile (active and passive) 3) Kissing	Penis, ano-rectum,, oropharynx and lips.	No	Regular close physical contact with stable partner (no sex).	Stable partner developed symptoms of MPX 8 days after symptoms onset of index case and later tested positive for MPX.
					2	Anonymous (n=10)	Gay sauna with dark room in Lisbon (Portugal)	1) Anal ("bottom and top") 2) Oro-penile (active and passive) 3) Kissing	Penis, ano-rectum, oropharynx and lips.	No		
					3	Anonymous (n=10)	Darklands Festival in Antwerp (Belgium)	1) Anal ("bottom and top") 2) Oro-penile (active and passive) 3) Kissing	Penis, ano-rectum, oropharynx and lips.	No		
2	15 days	General symptoms of fever and malaise, followed by skin lesions on	No known contact with a confirmed positive case.	Regular contact with stable partner as part of the same household.	1	Stable (n=1)	Private sphere (Belgium)	1) Anal ("bottom") 2) Oro-penile (active and passive) 3) Kissing	Penis, ano-rectum, oropharynx, lips.	No	Regular physical contact with stable partner (no sex)	No

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					Type of partner**	Setting	Type of sex	Exposure site	MPX suspect ***	Type of contact	MPX suspect ***	
		cheek, arm and little finger. No ano-genital lesions.	Sexual contact with a man that attended Darklands festival in Antwerp (indirect)		2	Anonymous (n=1)	Private sphere (Grindr date) (Belgium)	1) Anal ("bottom and top") 2) Oro-penile (active and passive) 3) Kissing	Penis, ano-rectum, oropharynx, lips, cheek, neck and torso.	Yes		
					3	Anonymous (n=10)	Gay sauna with dark room (Belgium)	1) Anal ("bottom and top") 2) Oro-penile (active and passive) 3) Kissing	Penis, ano-rectum, oropharynx, lips, cheek, neck and torso.	No		
3	4 days	Papule on leg, followed by general symptoms of fever and headache, and anal pain.	No known contact with a confirmed positive case.  One-week trip to Gran Canaria, Spain, with visits to several (sex) clubs (indirect)	None.	1	Occasional (n=3)	Private sphere (Belgium)	1) Anal ("bottom") 2) Oro-penile (active and passive) 3) Kissing	Penis, ano-rectum, oropharynx, lips.	No	One occasional sex contact in private sphere on first night of onset of general symptoms.	No
					2	Anonymous (n=2)	Dancing club with dark room (Spain)	1) Anal ("bottom") 2) Oro-penile (active and passive) 3) Kissing	Penis, ano-rectum, oropharynx, lips.	No		
4	5 days	General symptoms and swollen cervical	No contact with a confirmed positive case.	None.	1	Anonymous (n=1)	Private sphere (Grindr date) (Belgium)	1) Anal with condom ("top") 2) Oro-anal ("rimming")	Penis (where not covered by condom),	Yes	None.	/

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					Type of partner**	Setting	Type of sex	Exposure site	MPX suspect ***	Type of contact	MPX suspect ***	
		lymph nodes followed by ulcers on penis and itchy vesicle on lip.	Sexual contact with a man that attended Darklands festival and noticed a rash on his buttocks.					oropharynx and lips.				
5	14 days	General symptoms of fever and appetite loss followed by lymphadenopathy and skin lesion on forehead, back, legs and penis.	No known contact with a confirmed positive case.  Attended Darklands festival in Antwerp (Belgium)	None.	1	Anonymous (n=1)	Darklands Antwerp (Belgium)	1) Anal with condom ("top") 2) Oro-penile (active and passive) 3) Kissing	Penis, oropharynx, lips, cheeks, neck, torso.	No	None.	/
					2	Anonymous (n=1)	Cruising club Antwerp (Belgium)	1) Anal with condom ("top") 2) Oro-penile (active and passive) 3) Kissing	Penis, oropharynx, lips, cheeks, neck, torso.	No		
6	15 days	General symptoms followed by skin lesions on abdomen, arm, neck and perianal area and proctitis (concurrent Neissia)	No known contact with a confirmed positive case.  Sexual contact attended Darklands festival.	None.	1	Occasional (n=1)	Private sphere (Belgium)	1) Anal with condom ("top") 2) Oro-penile (passive) 3) Kissing	Penis, oropharynx, lips.	No	Slept in mother's bed without changing sheets.	No
					2	Occasional (n=1)	Private sphere (Belgium)	1) Anal ("bottom and top")	Penis, ano-rectum, oropharynx, lips, cheeks,	No		

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					Type of partner**	Setting	Type of sex	Exposure site	MPX suspect ***	Type of contact	MPX suspect ***	
		Gonorrhoea infection).					2) Oro-penile (active and passive) 3) Kissing	neck and torso.				
7	6 days	Skin lesions on lower arm and lip, and general symptoms (fever, dry cough).	No known contact with a confirmed positive case.  Attended Darklands festival in Antwerp (Belgium).	None.	1	Stable (n=1)	Private sphere (Belgium)	1) Oro-penile (active and passive) 2) Kissing	Penis, oropharynx, lips.	No	None.	/
					2	Anonymous (n=6)	Darklands Antwerp (Belgium)	1) Anal ("bottom and top") 2) Oro-penile (active and passive) 3) Kissing	Penis, ano-rectum, oropharynx, lips, cheeks, neck and torso.	No		
					3	Anonymous (n=1)	Private sphere (Grindr date) in Paris (France)	1) Oro-penile (active and passive) 2) Kissing	Penis, oropharynx, lips.	No		
8	4 days	General symptoms followed by ulcerations on cheek, hands, finger, leg, and trunk. No anogenital lesions. Bacterial	No known contact with a confirmed positive case.	None.	1	Stable (n=1)	Private sphere (Belgium)	1) Anal ("top") 2) Kissing	Penis, lips.	No	Penetrative anal sex ("top") with stable partner.	No
					2	Anonymous (n=2)	Cruising club (Belgium)	1) Anal with condom ("top") 2) Oro-penile (passive) 3) Kissing	Penis, lips.			
					3	Anonymous (n=1)	Cruising club (Belgium)	1) Anal ("top") 2) Oro-penile (passive)	Penis, lips.	No		

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					Type of partner**	Setting	Type of sex	Exposure site	MPX suspect ***	Type of contact	MPX suspect ***	
		superinfection of face ulcer.					3) Kissing					
9	6 days	General symptoms and skin lesions on penis and torso.	Roommate (see #10) tested MPX positive.  Had sexual contact with a man that attended Darklands festival and noticed a rash on his buttocks.	Frequent and long lasting skin-to-skin contact with roommate (sitting next to each other on couch); no sexual contact.	1	Anonymous (n=1)	Private sphere (Grindr date) (Belgium)	1) Anal ("top") 2) Oro-penile (passive) 3) Kissing	Penis, lips.	No	Close physical contact with roommate (no sex).	Roommate developed symptoms of MPX 9 days after symptom onset of index case and later tested positive for MPX (see #10)
					2	Anonymous (n=1)	Private sphere (Grindr date) (Belgium)	1) Anal ("top")	Penis.	Yes		
10	5 days	General symptoms and skin lesion on penis and pubis.	Roommate (see #9) tested MPX positive	See #9	1	Anonymous (n=3)	Cruising club (Belgium)	1) Anal with condom ("bottom and top") 2) Oro-penile (active and passive) 3) Kissing	Penis, oropharynx, ano-rectum (where no condom), lips, cheeks, neck, torso.	No	Close physical contact with roommate (no sex).	Roommate developed symptoms of MPX earlier and recently tested positive for MPX (see #10)
					2	Anonymous (n=7)	Cruising clubs in Budapest (Hungary)	1) Anal with condom ("bottom and top")	Penis, oropharynx, ano-rectum (where no condom), lips,	No		

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							2) Oro-penile (active and passive) 3) Kissing	cheeks, neck, torso.				
11	10 days	General symptoms, adenopathies and skin lesion on scrotum and lesion in the mouth.	None.	Regular contact with stable partner as part of the same household.	1	Stable (n=1)	Private sphere (Belgium)	1) Anal ("top") 2) Oro-penile (active and passive) 3) Kissing	Penis, oropharynx, lips.	No	Sex date with stable partner and two occasional sex partners; sharing of "cock ring" with one of the men during sex.	One occasional partner developed symptoms of MPX 17 days after symptom onset of index case and later tested positive for MPX.
					2	Anonymous (n=3)	Private sphere (Grindr date) (Belgium)	1) Anal ("top") 2) Oro-penile (active and passive) 3) Kissing	Penis, oropharynx, lips, cheeks, neck, torso.	No		
12	16 days	Typical lesions on forehead, scalp, torso, pubic area, neck and eyebrows. No rash, no general symptoms.	None.	Sharing of bath towels with friends staying over and attending several cruising (sex) clubs).	/	/	/	/	/	2-weekly visits at hairdresser and multiple (hasty) physical contacts as part of a social setting (e.g. hugging and kissing when greeting friends)	One contact with whom bath towels were shared tested positive for MPX	

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											(date of diagnosis unknown)

\*A direct link refers to contact with a known confirmed MPX case; an indirect link refers to attendance of events publicly associated with the current MPX outbreak, or contact with sexual partners who disclosed having attended these events.

\*\* A distinction is made between self-reported “stable” (i.e. a spouse or fixed partner within a steady relationship), “occasional” (i.e. a casual partner without steady relationship but who is not unknown to the index case) and “anonymous” partners (i.e. person unknown to the index).

\*\*\*Refers to contacts being suspect of MPX based on either self-reported (i.e. through self-monitoring by the contact) or observed (e.g. by the index case) symptoms associated with an MPX infection.