

TMVII Update for Clinicians

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to alert you to [Trichophyton mentagrophytes genotype VII \(TMVII\)](#), an emerging dermatophyte that can spread through intimate or sexual contact and is associated with severe inflammatory tinea (ringworm).

TMVII has been circulating in Europe and other global regions for several years, with reported cases occurring primarily among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men. Since the first publicly reported U.S. case in June 2024, additional U.S. cases and clusters have been identified. In February 2026, the Minnesota Department of Health reported the [largest known U.S. outbreak of TMVII](#), with more than 30 confirmed or suspected cases identified since the first reported Minnesota case in July 2025.

Recommendations for Clinicians and Public Health Practitioners

1. Consider TMVII as a possible diagnosis in patients with [painful, pruritic, inflammatory, or persistent lesions involving the genitals, groin, buttocks, perianal area, face, beard, or other hair-bearing sites](#).
2. [Obtain a focused history](#) including sexual or household exposure, recent domestic or international travel, and prior use of over-the-counter antifungals, corticosteroids, or antibacterials.
3. Confirm dermatophyte infection with [KOH preparation](#) when microscopy is available and pursue species-level confirmation when feasible. Routine culture may identify *T. mentagrophytes* or *T. interdigitale*, but confirming TMVII requires specialized molecular testing, such as sequencing, which is available only at select laboratories.
4. Start oral terbinafine 250 mg daily as initial empiric therapy if TMVII is suspected. Therapy typically requires 6–12 weeks and may need to be extended until lesions have fully resolved. Do not delay treatment when clinical suspicion is high.
5. Treatment may be prolonged, and patients should be monitored until lesions fully resolve. Avoid topical corticosteroids or antifungal-corticosteroid combination products when TMVII or another dermatophyte infection is suspected.
6. Counsel patients on [preventing spread](#) by avoiding skin-to-skin contact, including intimate or sexual contact, while lesions are present. Patients should also avoid sharing personal items such as towels, bedding, clothing, razors, or sex toys.
7. Test for other sexually transmitted infections [as clinically indicated](#) and discuss partner notification; symptomatic partners should be evaluated.

Clinicians should contact their [state or local health department](#) if TMVII is suspected and for assistance with testing, reporting, or clinical management if needed. Health

departments can also email CDC at FungalOutbreaks@cdc.gov if there is concern for a potential outbreak. Testing is available free-of-charge through CDC's [Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network](#); clinicians should contact their state or local health department for submission instructions. Clinicians seeking assistance with clinical management or diagnostic testing can email FungalConsult@cdc.gov. Clinicians can also request consultation for challenging STI cases through the [STD Clinical Consultation Network](#).

Sincerely,

Mycotic Diseases Branch

Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC Tools and Partner Resources

- [TMVII Clinical Overview for Health Care Providers](#)
- [MDH Health Advisory: Sexually Transmitted Dermatophyte Outbreak in Minnesota](#)
- [MDH TMVII For Health Professionals](#)
- [American Academy of Dermatology – Managing Emerging Dermatophyte Infections](#)
- [CDC: Emerging Ringworm Clinical Brief](#)
- [First U.S. TMVII Case – JAMA Dermatology](#)
- [National STD Curriculum Image Library](#)
- [TMVII Among MSM – Emerging Infectious Diseases](#)
- [KOH Preparation Video – Journal of Family Practice \(YouTube\)](#)
- [STD Clinical Consultation Network](#)
- [CDC: Health Department Directories](#)
- [CDC: STI Treatment Guidelines](#)