

PRE-PRIDE AND MAKING THE MOST OF THE LUSTY MONTH OF MAY



Welcome to the Pride warm up days, Gentlemen! Days are growing longer, air is warming, clothes are getting shorter or coming off all together. It's a great time. We have our usual line up of events and activities as we race toward the end of June, but before that, a few things to get out of the way:

Starting off with a bit of a head up—you may have seen that roughly in the last month there's been an unexpected uptick in Mpox (formerly Monkey Pox) cases with the CDC <u>reporting</u> that cases are nearly double what they were last year. <u>New York</u>, <u>Philadelphia</u>, and <u>Virginia</u> in particular have reported increased numbers.

To be clear, the overall number of infections is still

very low comparatively, but now is a great time to get vaccinated if you haven't yet. Pride is just around the corner and no one wants to spend it feeling miserable. Page 5 has a full list of resources on where to get tested/vaccinated for Mpox.

While you're thinking about that, remember Chicago's program to make doxy-PReP available to residents is still going full swing. Doxy-PReP is a method for preventing the spread of bacterial STIs like chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis. You can find more about that program here. And while you're at it, if you need to find a Covid testing/vaccination location near you, <u>click here</u>.

Finally, find us on Discord to connect with other members and get updates on group events. To join, download the Discord app or go to discord.com and use this link to join the BNC group.

That's it for now. Looking forward to seeing all you fine gentlemen out and about during Pride season.

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UPCOMING BNC EVENTS

DAY	DATE	DOOR CHECK-IN	EVENT	LOCATION
SUN	MAY 5	3:00-4:00pm	Sunday Afternoon Play	Touché
\$15 Members, \$20 Guests, includes 2 wine, well liquor or domestic beer drink tickets + pizza				
DAY	DATE	DOOR CHECK-IN	EVENT	LOCATION
FRI	MAY 10	6:00-9:00PM	BEAR HUMP	Steamworks
REGULAR ADMISSION - LOOK OUT FOR BNC DISCOUNT COUPON EMAILED SEPERATELY				
DAY	DATE	DOOR CHECK-IN	EVENT	LOCATION
SAT	MAY 18	6:00 – 7:00	Saturday Night Party	Touché
\$15 Members, \$20 Guests, includes 2 wine, well liquor or domestic beer drink tickets + pizza				
DAY	DATE	DOOR CHECK-IN	EVENT	LOCATION
WED	MAY 22	7:30 – 8:30PM	Wednesday Evening Party	Touché
\$15 Members, \$20 Guests, includes 2 wine, well liquor or domestic beer drink tickets + pizza				
DAY	DATE	DOOR CHECK-IN	EVENT	LOCATION
SAT	MAY 25	1:00-6:00PM	BEARS, THE BATHS & BEYOND	Steamworks
REGULAR ADMISSION – LOOK OUT FOR BNC DISCOUNT COUPON EMAILED SEPERATELY				
DAY	DATE	DOOR CHECK-IN	EVENT	LOCATION
SUN	JUN 2	3:00-4:00pm	Sunday Afternoon Play	Touché
\$15 Members, \$20 Guests, includes 2 wine, well liquor or domestic beer drink tickets + pizza				
DAY	DATE	DOOR CHECK-IN	EVENT	LOCATION
FRI		6:00-9:00PM	BEAR HUMP	Steamworks
REGULAR ADMISSION – LOOK OUT FOR BNC DISCOUNT COUPON EMAILED SEPERATELY				
DAY	DATE	DOOR CHECK-IN	EVENT	LOCATION
SAT	JUN 15	6:00 - 7:00	Saturday Night Party	Touché
\$15 Members, \$20 Guests, includes 2 wine, well liquor or domestic beer drink tickets + pizza				
\$15	Members, \$20	Guests, includes 2 wine,	well liquor or domestic beer drink	tickets + pizza
\$15 / DAY	Members, \$20 DATE	DOOR CHECK-IN	EVENT	tickets + pizza
· ·			EVENT	LOCATION
DAY SAT	DATE JUN 22	DOOR CHECK-IN 1:00-6:00PM	EVENT	LOCATION Steamworks
DAY SAT	DATE JUN 22	DOOR CHECK-IN 1:00-6:00PM	EVENT BEARS, THE BATHS & BEYOND	LOCATION Steamworks
DAY SAT DAY WED	DATE JUN 22 GULAR ADMI DATE JUN 26	DOOR CHECK-IN 1:00-6:00PM SSION – LOOK OUT FOR B DOOR CHECK-IN 7:30 – 8:30PM	EVENT BEARS, THE BATHS & BEYOND NC DISCOUNT COUPON EMAILED	LOCATION Steamworks SEPERATELY LOCATION Touché

Businesses may hold their own requirements for admission, including requiring proof of vaccination or mask wearing. Always check ahead before arriving to make sure you can get in.

GET SWEATY WITH US AT STEAMWORKS

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Steamworks is a private membership gym/sauna/bathhouse exclusively for men 18 years and older. Located at 3246 N. Halsted Street in Boystown, between Belmont and Aldine, Steamworks offers BNC members **discount coupons** to attend their "Bears, the Baths, and Beyond" events on the fourth Saturday of each month, along with "Bear Hump" on the second Wednesday of each month. Steamworks is open every day with all areas open, including the hot tub and steam room. **Read Steamworks' full list of rules for entry here**.

CAN WE SEE YOUR PICS?

Quit holding out on us! We want to see what you're working with. If you feel up to sharing with the rest of the group, <u>reach out to us here</u> and we'll get in touch. You can remain as anonymous as you like or you can bear it all. We want to see it either way.

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SERVICE US – AND EARN BEAR BUCKS!

We currently are in need of the following:

- Someone willing to learn our procedures and serve as a backup for executing them
- Someone competent/knowledgeable with Word Press

VOLUNTEER WITH BNC EVENTS – AND EARN BEAR BUCKS!

BNC is always seeking volunteers for our events. Volunteers get free entry to the event worked and they can also earn "Bear Bucks" that can be redeemed to pay annual membership dues or event entry fees. Want to help out? Use the contact form at <u>www.bearnaked.club</u> and let us know how and when you would be able to volunteer

ABOUT BNC EVENTS

All **MEN** (age 21 and up) are welcome to attend our regularly scheduled events. Sponsorship is NOT required for guests to attend any BNC event, so don't be shy ... come on out! BNC parties are held at **Touché** (6412 N. Clark Street) next to Leather 64Ten in the Rogers Park neighborhood, just northwest of the Clark/Devon intersection. The bar is located on CTA bus routes 22, 36, 151, and 155, all of which stop at this intersection. Admission to BNC parties includes pizza and two drink tickets (cash bar after the two tickets are redeemed) in addition to all the fun you can handle!

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ALL THINGS MPOX

Chicago clinics are using the JYNNEOS[™] vaccine, which is licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to prevent smallpox and monkeypox in adults who are at risk for infection of Mpox, formerly known as Monkeypox. **Any sexually active bisexual**, **gay**, **and other same-gender loving men or sexually active transgender individual is now eligible to get the vaccine in Illinois**. It is a two-dose vaccine given under the skin 28 days apart.

VACCINATION LOCATIONS

MPV VACCINE ELIGIBILITY UPDATE The MPV JYNNEOS VACCINE IS AVAILABLE TO

AIVYONE LIVING IN ILLINUIS WHO: * Had skin-to-skin or intimate contact (e.g., household members with close physical contact or intimate partners) with someone diagnosed with MPV.

- physical contact or intimate partners) with some
 * Exchanges goods or services for sex.
- Lives with HIV, especially persons not in HIV care or not regularly taking their HIV medications.
- * Is eligible for or is currently taking PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help prevent infection with HIV.
- Is a sexually active bisexual, gay and other same gender-loving men, or sexually active transgender individuals.
- Sexual partners of those included above or individuals who anticipate meeting criteria above in the future.

Especially consider getting vaccinated if you:

- * Met recent partners online, or at clubs, raves, sex parties, saunas.
- Were diagnosed with sexually transmitted infection(s) in past 6 months.



FOR MORE INFO, AND HOW YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF AFTER VACCINATION, VISIT **CHICAGO.GOV/MPV** The **Center on Halstead** is hosting vaccine clinics at various times and days at two clinic locations for those who want services:

Southside Chicago/Woodlawn Community Center on Cottage Grove • 6323 S. Cottage Grove

Northside Chicago Center on Halsted • 3656 N. Halsted

<u>Check here</u> to see their up-to-date list and schedule an appointment.

The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) is offering vaccinations at their Lakeview, Austin, and Roseland clinics. <u>Go here to schedule</u> <u>an appointment</u>.

You can **schedule an appointment** for a Mpox vaccine at Howard Brown by calling 872-269-3600. <u>Go here</u> for more information about appointments and treatment through Howard Brown.

Want to get a copy of your Mpox vaccination record? You can do it online. Here's how:

- 1. Go to https://idphportal.illinois.gov/s/
- 2. Create an account
- 3. View your vaccination records. Mpox shots will show up here as well as any other vaccinations you've gotten recently that are reported to the state.



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