

MONKEYPOX

THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING MORE

Learn more about Monkeypox



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WHAT IS MONKEYPOX?

Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. Monkeypox virus is part of the same family of viruses as variola virus, the virus that causes smallpox. Monkeypox symptoms are similar to smallpox symptoms, but milder, and monkeypox is rarely fatal. Monkeypox is not related to chickenpox.



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HOW IS MONKEYPOX TRANSMITTED?

Monkeypox can spread to anyone through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact, including:

- Direct contact with monkeypox rash, scabs, or body fluids from a person with monkeypox.
- Touching objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox.
- Contact with respiratory secretions.



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WHAT ARE MONKEYPOX SYMPTOMS?

A rash can appear on or near the genitals (penis, testicles, labia, and vagina) or anus (butthole) and on other areas like the hands, feet, chest, face, or mouth. The rash will go through several stages, including scabs, before healing. The rash can initially look like pimples or blisters and may be painful or itchy. Other symptoms may include fever, chills, exhaustion, headache, muscle aches and swollen lymph nodes.



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HOW IS MONKEYPOX DIAGNOSED?

A doctor can determine if you have monkeypox by ordering a lab test. Currently, testing is only recommended if you have a rash consistent with monkeypox. Healthcare provider will use swab to rub vigorously across lesions of your rash that will then be sent to the lab to see if the virus is detected.



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HOW IS MONKEYPOX TREATED?

There is currently no treatment specifically for monkeypox but, because the virus is closely related with smallpox, drugs and vaccines used to treat and protect against smallpox may be effective for monkeypox. However, the type of treatment for a person with monkeypox will depend on how sick someone gets. Most people with monkeypox recover fully within 2 to 4 weeks without the need for medical treatment.



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HOW IS MONKEYPOX PREVENTED?

Following the recommended prevention steps and getting vaccinated if you were exposed to monkeypox or are at higher risk of being exposed to monkeypox can help protect you and your community.




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