

Monkeypox Fact Sheet

Monkeypox (MPV) is a rare disease that is caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. Infections with MPV are typically not fatal. At this time, the **risk of MPV to the community is low**. However, ***anyone in close contact with a person with MPV can get it*** and should take steps to protect themselves. Symptoms of MPV can appear between 3 and 20 days after infection; the illness typically lasts 2 to 4 weeks.

Symptoms

- Rash or lesions
- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle aches and backaches
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Chills
- Exhaustion
- Sore throat, nasal congestion or cough

How it spreads

MPV is spread through direct contact with an infected person or animal, or with material or objects that have been in contact with the virus. Anyone can spread the virus. It is spread by:

- Direct contact with infectious rash, scabs or bodily fluid
- Direct contact with items that have previously touched the infectious rash or bodily fluids like bedding, clothing or eating and drinking utensils
- Prolonged face-to-face contact, such as during kissing, cuddling or sex

Treatment

There are no treatments specifically for MPV infections.

- Antiviral drugs and vaccines developed to protect against smallpox may be used to prevent and treat monkeypox virus infections.
- Vaccines can be effective at protecting people against MPV illness before or after exposure, but should be given within 4 days to provide the best chance at preventing illness.

Prevention

- Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like MPV
- Do not handle or touch items that have previously been touched by someone with MPV
- Do not share eating utensils or cups with a person with MPV
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer

What to do if you believe you have been exposed to MPV

- Contact your health care provider
- Avoid close, intimate contact with others
- Avoid close contact with pets or other animals

If you have a new or unexplained rash or other symptoms

- Isolate from others
- Contact your health care provider
- Get tested for MPV

