

Monkeypox Key Facts



Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by the monkeypox virus.

Monkeypox can make you sick including a rash or sores (pox), often with an earlier flu-like illness.

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



Symptoms

- Early flu-like symptoms of monkeypox can include fever, headache, muscle aches, backache, swollen lymph nodes, chills, and exhaustion
- Rash appears within 1 to 3 days (sometimes longer) after fever, often beginning on the face then spreading to other parts of the body
- Illness usually lasts 2–4 weeks



Transmission

- Monkeypox can spread through:
 - Direct contact with monkeypox rash, sores or scabs
 - Contact with objects, clothing, bedding, towels, or surfaces used by someone with monkeypox
 - Respiratory droplets or oral fluids from a person with monkeypox
- Monkeypox can spread from the time symptoms start until all sores have healed, which can take several weeks



Recent Clusters of Monkeypox

- Cases of monkeypox have been recently reported in several countries that don't normally have monkeypox activity, including the United States
- It's not clear how the individuals were exposed to monkeypox but cases include people who self-identify as men who have sex with men



Diagnosis & Treatment

- Healthcare providers should be alert for patients with rash illnesses consistent with monkeypox, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, particularly those with travel history or other risk factors
- There is no specific treatment for monkeypox, although antivirals developed for use in patients with smallpox may be beneficial



Recommendations for the Public

- Risk to the general public is low
- Seek medical care immediately if you are concerned you have monkeypox
- Avoid close contact with sick people, including people with skin lesions or genital lesions



For More Information

- Contact your healthcare provider with medical questions
- Visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) website