



# MONKEYPOX: GET THE FACTS

JULY  
2022

## UPDATES ABOUT THE CURRENT MONKEYPOX OUTBREAK

- In July 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared monkeypox a public health emergency due to spread of the virus in countries outside of where it's typically seen, including the United States.
- There is not an FDA-approved treatment for monkeypox; however, most cases have resolved on their own in 3-4 weeks. Antivirals, such as tecovirimat (TPOXX), may be recommended for people who are more likely to get severely ill.
- Although most cases have been reported in men who have sex with men, monkeypox is not exclusive to one sexual orientation or gender identity.

## WHAT IS MONKEYPOX?

- Monkeypox is a viral infection spread through close contact with a person who is infected or contact with infected materials.
- Monkeypox can spread in the following ways:
  - Contact with the rashes, scabs, or other bodily fluids of someone who has monkeypox.
  - Contact with respiratory secretions during prolonged face-to-face contact or intimate physical contact, such as hugging, kissing, or sex, with a person who has monkeypox.
  - Contact with things like clothes or bedding that have touched the rash or bodily fluids of someone who has monkeypox.
- While monkeypox can spread through sexual contact, it is not an STI.
- Monkeypox can make you sick, including a rash or sores (pox), often accompanied by an earlier flu-like illness.

## WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

- Early symptoms can include fever, headache, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes, chills and exhaustion.
- A rash or sores, sometimes located on or near the genitals or anus, but sometimes in other areas like the hands, feet, chest or face. Sores will go through several stages before healing.
- Sores may be inside the body, including the mouth, vagina, or anus.
- Monkeypox can spread from the time symptoms start until all sores have healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed - this can take several weeks.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I WAS EXPOSED TO MONKEYPOX?

If you do not have symptoms

Call the Health Department at 215-685-5488.

You will be asked about the exposure and will work with the Health Department to set up a vaccine appointment if you are eligible.

If you do have symptoms

Call your regular healthcare provider.

If you do not have a healthcare provider, visit <https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov> to find a public health clinic near you.

## IF YOU HAVE AN UNEXPLAINED RASH, SORES, OR OTHER SYMPTOMS...

- See your healthcare provider.
  - If you don't have a provider or health insurance, visit a public health clinic near you.
- When you see a healthcare provider for possible monkeypox, remind them that the virus is circulating in the community.
- Avoid sex or being intimate with anyone until you have been checked out.

## WHAT ABOUT THE VACCINE?

- Given the evolving nature of the current outbreak and limited supply, the Health Department will be offering one dose of the JYNNEOS vaccine to eligible individuals based on their risk of exposure.
- There is some evidence that the vaccine will reach an effective level 14 days after vaccination. The vaccine is not perfect and it is important for individuals to engage in practices to reduce exposure to monkeypox as well.

## IF YOU OR YOUR PARTNER HAVE MONKEYPOX...

- Follow the treatment and prevention recommendations of your healthcare provider.
- Avoid sex or being intimate with anyone until all sores have healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

visit [bit.ly/PHLMonkeypoxInfo](https://bit.ly/PHLMonkeypoxInfo) or [www.cdc.gov/monkeypox](https://www.cdc.gov/monkeypox)