

ABOUT MONKEYPOX (MPV)

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.

Is MPV deadly?

Infections with the type of monkeypox virus identified in this outbreak—the West African type—are rarely fatal. Over 99% of people who get this form of the disease are likely to survive. However, people with weakened immune systems, children under 8 years of age, people with a history of eczema, and people who are pregnant or breastfeeding may be more likely to get seriously ill or die. Symptoms can be extremely painful, and people can have permanent scarring from the rash.

What are the symptoms of MPV?

Symptoms include: fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, enlarged lymph nodes, and rash on face, body or genitals. Please note: Some individuals may only get a rash and no other symptoms.

What should I do if I have MPV symptoms?

If you have fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, enlarged lymph nodes, rash or sores on face, body or genitals:

- Stay home and away from other people (isolate).
- Schedule an appointment with a healthcare provider.
- Wear a mask and cover rash (if present) when you go to the appointment.
- If you have a rash or sore available for testing, the healthcare provider will call the health department for next steps. The healthcare provider will take a sample from the rash or sore to send to a lab.
- Wear a mask and keep rash covered while in public and continue to isolate while waiting for test results.

How is MPV spread?

- Monkeypox can spread in various ways. MPV can spread person-to-person through:
- direct contact with the infectious rash, scabs or body fluids
- respiratory secretions during prolonged face-to-face contact or during intimate physical contact such as kissing, cuddling or sex
- handling personal items like bedding, towels, laundry, utensils, fetish gear and sex toys



Can you get MPV through casual contact?

No. MPV is spread by direct contact with: infectious rash, scabs or body fluids; respiratory secretions shared during prolonged face-to-face and physical contact (kissing, cuddling or sex); personal items like bedding, towels, laundry, utensils, fetish gear and sex toys.

Who is at high-risk for MPV?

People considered at high-risk for MPV include: People who have had close physical or intimate contact with someone diagnosed with MPV; OR who identify as a man who has sex with men (MSM), gay, bisexual trans or assigned male at birth AND attends sex parties, clubs bath houses, or other sex venues; or who has multiple sexual partners or anonymous sex, or has sex in exchange for money, goods, or services. If this sounds like you, contact a healthcare provider. If you don't have a healthcare provider, call the HIV Resource Hub at 844-482-4040.

Who should get vaccinated for MPV?

MPV vaccine is not recommended for the general public. Vaccination is recommended for people considered high-risk. See "Who is at high-risk for MPV?" above.

Will MPV vaccination prevent monkeypox?

If vaccination is given 4–14 days after the date of exposure, it may reduce symptoms, but may not prevent MPV infection. CDC recommends vaccination within 4 days from the date of exposure to avoid getting monkeypox. The sooner an exposed person gets the vaccine, the better.

Does the MPV vaccine have side effects?

Side effects are common and usually mild. Most people have redness, swelling and pain where they got the shot. You may feel tired, have a headache and muscle pain.

What do I need to know about MPV treatment?

Most people recover from MPV without needing treatment. There is an antiviral drug called tecovirimat (TPOXX) that can be given to people who are more likely to get severely ill, like patients with weakened immune systems, genital or eye lesions, or are pregnant. TPOXX must be prescribed by a physician in coordination with the local health department (CCDPH). For more information, talk to your provider or visit the CDC website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/Tecovirimat.html>

