

Monkeypox

Monkeypox is a rare viral disease spread through close personal contact, including skin-to-skin. It can cause a rash or sore, and flu-like illness. The disease is rare but is being increasingly reported in the U.S. and other countries that don't normally have monkeypox cases.

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.

Take the following steps to prevent monkeypox:

- Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox.
 - Do not touch the rash or scabs of a person with monkeypox.
 - Do not kiss, hug, cuddle or have sex with someone with monkeypox.
- Avoid contact with objects and materials that a person with monkeypox has used.
 - Do not share eating utensils or cups with a person with monkeypox.
 - Do not handle or touch the bedding, towels, or clothing of a person with monkeypox.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially before eating or touching your face and after you use the bathroom.

Early symptoms of monkeypox are usually flu-like:

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle aches and backache
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Chills
- Exhaustion

Other symptoms usually develop a few days later:

- A rash or sore, sometimes located near certain areas of the body, or sometimes in areas such as the hands, feet, chest, or face. These sores will go through several stages before healing.
- Sores may be inside the body, including the mouth, and other parts.

Note: Some people experience a rash or sores first, followed by other symptoms and some only experience a rash or sores.

When you can infect others: Monkeypox can be spread to others when symptoms begin and until all sores have healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed. Healing can take several weeks.

As we continue to learn more about Monkeypox, we will share this information with you, as well as procedures to help you mitigate the spread of this virus. We ask that you continue to follow the Covid 19 guidelines to ensure you are taking the necessary steps to protect yourself from the spread of Covid and Monkeypox.

For More Information on Monkeypox:

CDC Guidelines

- <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html>

Mississippi Department of Health

- https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,431.html