

Monkeypox FAQ's

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.

What are the symptoms of Monkeypox?

Symptoms of monkeypox can include fever, muscle aches and backache, swollen lymph nodes, chills, respiratory symptoms (e.g. sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough), and/or a rash that can look like pimples or blisters that appears on the face, inside the mouth, and on other parts of the body, like the hands, feet, chest, genitals or anus.

The rash goes through different stages before healing completely. The illness typically lasts 2-4 weeks. Sometimes, people get a rash first, followed by other symptoms. Others only experience a rash.

How does Monkeypox spread?

Monkeypox can spread from person to person through direct contact with the infectious rash, scabs, or body fluids. It also can be spread by respiratory secretions during prolonged, face-to-face contact, or during intimate physical contact, such as kissing, cuddling, or sex.

Monkeypox can spread from the time symptoms start until the rash has fully healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed. Anyone in close personal contact with a person with monkeypox can get it and should take steps to protect themselves.

Does Monkeypox survive on surfaces?

Poxviruses can survive on linens, clothing and surfaces for up to 15 days under specific conditions, such as dark, cool, and low humidity environments.

How do I protect myself from Monkeypox?

- Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox.
- Avoid contact with objects and materials that a person with monkeypox has used
- 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.
- If you are assigned to clean or enter a room used by a person positive for monkeypox, be sure to wear long sleeves and long pants. A disposable cover garment is better. Don gloves, eye protection and a well-fitting mask. Use of a standard disinfectant is sufficient to kill the virus.

Are there treatments available for Monkeypox infection?

There are no medical treatments specially for monkeypox virus infections. Most people with monkeypox infections recover fully within 2 to 4 weeks without the need for medical treatment. Monkeypox infection is rarely fatal. If you have symptoms of monkeypox, it is important to talk to your healthcare provider.

Antiviral drugs and vaccines developed to protect against smallpox may be used to prevent or treat monkeypox virus infections in people who are more likely to get severely ill, like individuals with weakened immune systems.

Is there a vaccine to prevent Monkeypox?

The US government has two stockpiled vaccines – JYNNEOS and ACAAM2000 – that can prevent monkeypox in people who are exposed to the virus. However, vaccine supplies remain very limited that are currently reserved for high-risk contacts, clinical laboratory workers processing monkeypox samples, and researchers handling cultures/animals infected with monkeypox.

References:

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