

Monkeypox FAQs

What is monkeypox?

Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus.

How is monkeypox spread?

Monkeypox can be spread through:

- Direct, close contact (kissing, cuddling, or sexual intercourse).
- Respiratory droplets and/or secretions during prolonged face-to-face contact released from the mouth (talking, sneezing, or coughing).
- Touching contaminated surfaces that have been touched by someone with monkeypox.
- Touching contaminated materials such as linens or clothing.



Who is most at risk for monkeypox?

Currently, men who have sex with men (MSM) is the population most at risk for getting and spreading monkeypox. Anyone can get or spread monkeypox, and monkeypox will spread to populations outside of MSM.

Where does monkeypox come from?

Monkeypox mainly occurs in the rain forest countries of Central and West Africa. It was discovered in 1958 when two outbreaks of a pox-like disease occurred in colonies of monkeys kept for research. However, African rodents and non-human primates (like monkeys) might harbor the virus and infect people.

What causes monkeypox?

Monkeypox is caused by the monkeypox virus, a species in the genus *Orthopoxvirus* and the *Proxviridae* family. Other Orthopoxviruses that cause infections in humans include variola (smallpox), vaccinia (used for smallpox vaccine), and cowpox viruses. There are two distinct strains of the monkeypox virus: The Central African strain and the West African strain.

What are the monkeypox symptoms?

Fever



Headache



Muscle aches
and/or
backache



Swollen
lymph nodes



Chills



Exhaustion



A pimple-like
rash or blisters

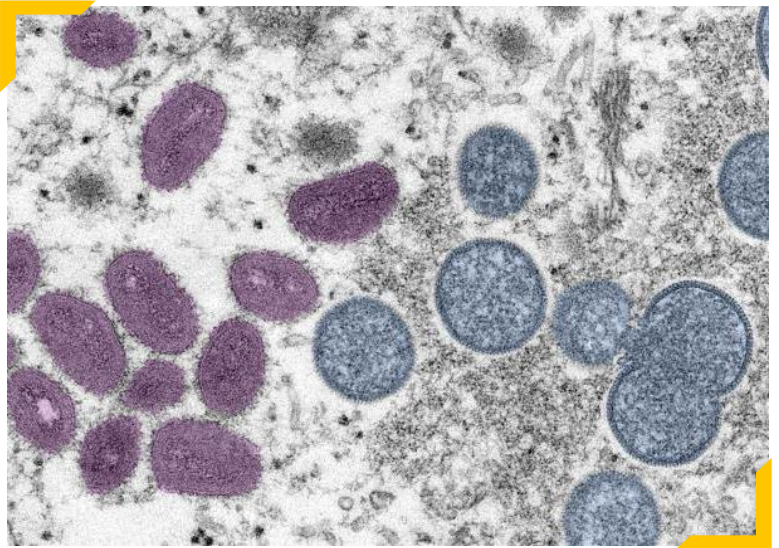


How long does monkeypox stay in your system?

The rash goes through different stages before healing completely. The illness typically lasts two to four weeks.

What should I do if I suspect I have the monkeypox virus or came into close contact with someone who is a carrier of the virus?

Contact your healthcare provider and avoid direct contact with others until you can be assessed.



Is there a monkeypox vaccine available?

Yes. Monkeypox vaccines are being delivered to local health departments and DSHS public health regions throughout Texas.



Who is eligible to receive the monkeypox vaccine?

Please contact your local health department to learn more about vaccine eligibility in your area.

People with a known or possible exposure to the monkeypox virus are the highest priority for vaccination.

Monkeypox vaccination may protect you from getting sick if given before or soon after your exposure.

Scan Me



For more information about monkeypox, visit:
<https://bit.ly/3JUHhSc>



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