

Monkeypox FAQs

What is Monkeypox?

Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by an infection with the monkeypox virus. The monkeypox virus is part of the same family of viruses as smallpox, but milder, and rarely fatal. Over 99% of people infected with the form monkeypox identified in U.S 2022 outbreak are likely to recover.

How is Monkeypox spread?

Monkeypox can spread to anyone through close contact (often skin-to-skin) including:

- Direct contact with Monkeypox rash, scabs, or body fluids from a person with monkeypox
- Touching objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox
- Direct contact with respiratory secretions

What are the symptoms of monkeypox?

Symptoms typically last 2 to 4 weeks:

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle Aches
- Respiratory symptoms (sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough)
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Chills
- Fatigue
- *Rash that can look like pimples or blisters

*The rash can appear on the face, inside the mouth, and on other parts of the body, (hands, feet, chest, genitals, or anus) usually occurs within 1-3 days after a fever. The rash evolves from lesions with a flat base to slightly raised firm lesions, to lesions filled with clear fluid, to lesions with yellowish fluid, then crust which dries up and fall off. People with monkeypox are contagious until all lesions have scabbed over and have fallen off the skin.

What is the treatment for monkeypox?

- Symptoms normally resolve on their own, however medication for pain and fever can be used to relieve symptoms. Antivirals (tecovirimat) may be recommended for people who are more likely to get severely ill (ex. Individuals with weakened immune systems).

How can I prevent monkeypox?

- Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox.
- Do not handle or touch the bedding, towels, or clothing of a person with monkeypox.
- Wash you hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- CDC recommends vaccination for individual exposed and at risk to the virus.

What to do if you think you may have monkeypox symptoms or have been exposed?

- Monitor yourself closely for signs and symptoms, and contact a healthcare provider for information about testing and post-exposure prophylaxis

How do I find additional information about Monkeypox?

- Visit [Georgia Department of Public Health](#)
- Visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Source: [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Updated July 29, 2022