

Monkeypox Virus (mpox) Fact Sheet

Below is the basic information you should know related to transmission, symptoms, protection, and actions to take if you have been exposed or are symptomatic, along with links to learn more.



Transmission. Mpox is spread primarily through close, intimate contact with someone who is currently symptomatic. People who live with or have close contact with someone who has mpox, or with animals that could be infected, are at high risk for contracting mpox. Mpox can spread to anyone through personal, often skin-to-skin contact. For more information on the transmission of mpox, visit the CDC's "[How it Spreads](#)" page.



Symptoms. Symptoms can appear 5 to 21 days after infection and can include some, or all, of the following:

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle aches and backache
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Chills
- Exhaustion
- Respiratory symptoms (e.g., sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough)
- A rash that may be located on or near the genitals or anus but could also be on other areas like the hands, feet, chest, face, or mouth
- Some people have developed a rash before (or without) other symptoms
- Patients are usually ill for 2 to 4 weeks, and most cases are not life-threatening, although some people are at risk for more severe illness.

For more information, visit the CDC's [Signs and Symptoms page](#).



Protection. Take the following steps to protect yourself from mpox exposure:

- Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like mpox and do not touch the rash or scabs of a person with mpox.
- Avoid contact with objects and materials that a person with mpox has used, including eating utensils, bedding, towels, or clothing of a person with mpox.
- 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.
- Healthcare workers or those working in [congregate settings](#) should follow the CDC's [infection prevention and control protocols](#) to [protect themselves](#), including avoiding directly touching the bedding, towels, and clothing of a person with mpox.
- The DHS workforce conducting general duties interacting with members of the public who are not known or suspected of having mpox, or their possessions, should continue to follow standard hygiene practices, including wearing gloves to prevent skin contamination.
- For more information on protection, visit the CDC's "[How to Protect Yourself](#)" page.



Recommended Action. If you believe you have been exposed to or have symptoms of mpox, talk to your healthcare provider, your [local health department](#), or a public health clinic near you, even if you do not know whether you had contact with someone with mpox. When you see a healthcare provider, wear a mask and remind them that this virus is circulating in the area. CDC recommends that people with mpox remain isolated for the duration of illness.

Although there are no [treatments](#) specifically for mpox infections, mpox and smallpox viruses are genetically similar, which means that antiviral drugs and [vaccines](#) developed to protect against smallpox may be used to prevent and treat mpox infections. Antivirals, such as tecovirimat (TPOXX), may be recommended for people who are more likely to get severely ill, like patients with weakened immune systems. [The Food and Drug Administration approved the Jynneos™ vaccine](#) for the prevention of smallpox and mpox in adults who are determined to be at high risk of infection. Contacts of infected persons will also have access to the vaccine, coordinated through the local health departments.

The DHS Office of Health Security will continue to monitor the current situation as it evolves and provide updates to the DHS workforce, as appropriate.