

# Monkeypox Facts

- Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by the monkeypox virus.
- Monkeypox can cause a rash which may look like pimples or blisters, sometimes with a flu-like illness.
- Monkeypox can spread to anyone through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact 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.
  - Contact with respiratory secretions.
- This contact can happen during intimate contact including:
  - Oral, anal, and vaginal sex or touching the genitals (penis, testicles, labia, and vagina) or anus (butthole) of a person with monkeypox.
  - Hugging, massage, and kissing.
  - Prolonged face-to-face contact.
  - Touching fabrics and objects during sex that were used by a person with monkeypox and that have not been disinfected, such as bedding, towels, and sex toys.
  - Having multiple or anonymous sex partners may increase your chances for exposure to monkeypox.
  - Limiting your number of sex partners may reduce the possibility of exposure.
- We are trying to better understand if virus could be present in semen, vaginal fluids, or other body fluids.

## What Are the Symptoms?

- You may experience all or only a few of the symptoms of monkeypox.
- Most people with monkeypox will get a rash.
- Some people have developed a rash before (or without) flu-like symptoms.
- Monkeypox symptoms usually start within 3 weeks of exposure to the virus.
- The flu-like symptoms may include fever, headache, muscle aches and backache, sore throat, cough, swollen lymph nodes, chills, or exhaustion.
- If someone has flu-like symptoms, they will usually develop a rash 1-4 days later.
- The rash may be located on or near the genitals or anus but could also be on other areas like the hands, feet, chest, or face.
- The rash will go through several stages, including scabs, before healing.
- The rash can look like pimples or blisters and may be painful or itchy.
- The rash may also be inside the body, including the mouth, vagina, or anus.
- Monkeypox can be spread from the time symptoms start until the rash has healed, all scabs have fallen off, and a fresh layer of skin has formed. This can take several weeks.



## If You Have a New or Unexplained Rash or Other Symptoms...

- Avoid sex or being intimate with anyone until you have been checked out by a healthcare provider.
- If you don't have a provider or health insurance, visit a public health clinic near you.
- When you see a healthcare provider, wear a mask, and remind them that this virus is circulating in the area.

## If You or Your Partner Have Monkeypox...

- Follow the treatment and prevention recommendations of your healthcare provider.
- Avoid sex or being intimate with anyone until the rash has healed, scabs have fallen off and you have a fresh layer of skin.



For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/monkeypox](http://www.cdc.gov/monkeypox)