

Monkeypox: What You Need to Know



2022 U.S. Monkeypox Outbreak

Anyone can get monkeypox, but many of the cases identified in the current outbreak have been in men who have sex with men, thanks in part to the vigilance of those who sought testing when concerns arose leading to the recognition that monkeypox was spreading in the U.S.

The disease is accompanied by a rash, which may look like pimples or blisters, often with an earlier flu-like illness. The rash starts flat then becomes bumpy and fluid-filled before scabbing over and resolving. This happens over a period of 2-4 weeks. Rashes may be all over the body, including the palms, feet, and head, or located only on specific body parts such as the genitals or around the buttocks.

Updated global and U.S. case numbers are posted on the CDC site [here](#).

Transmission

Monkeypox is transmitted person-to-person through direct skin-to-skin contact, having contact with an infectious rash, through body fluids or through respiratory secretions. Such contact often occurs during prolonged, face-to-face contact or during intimate physical contact, such as kissing, cuddling or sex.

People who do not have monkeypox symptoms cannot spread the virus to others. Learn more about how monkeypox is spread and a summary of the 2022 U.S. outbreak: <https://bit.ly/3bczSiE>

Vaccines & Eligibility

Vaccines are available in limited supply, at no cost, for individuals with known or suspected exposure to monkeypox. This includes:

- People who have been in close physical contact with someone diagnosed with monkeypox in the last 14 days (PEP)
- Men who have sex with men, or transgender individuals, who report any of the following in the last 90 days:
 - o Having multiple or anonymous sex partners
 - o Being diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection
 - o Receiving HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)
- Available for certain healthcare workers and public health response team members designated by public health authorities

Individuals who meet these criteria can [call their local health department](#) to make an appointment to receive the vaccine, or they can call one of the seven local health departments that have already received vaccines as part of the phase 2b allocation of Jynneos vaccine:

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| • Cumberland (910) 433-3600 | • Forsyth (336) 703-3100 | • New Hanover (910) 798-6800 |
| • Buncombe (828) 250-5300 | • Guilford (336) 641-3245 | • Pitt (252) 902-2300 |
| • Durham (919) 560-9217 | • Mecklenburg (980) 314-9400 | • Wake (919) 250-4462 |

Prevention

If you have an unexplained rash, sores, or other symptoms, see your health care provider — if you don't have a provider or health insurance, contact your local health department. Keep the rash covered and avoid sex or being intimate with anyone until you have been checked out by a health care provider. Avoid in-person gatherings. Standard household cleaners and detergents are effective at cleaning environmental surfaces and linens.

