

PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET



COUNTY MICHIGAN
HEALTH DIVISION

Department of Health & Human Services

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Monkeypox

What is Monkeypox?

Monkeypox is a rare viral disease that is found mostly in the rainforest countries of central and west Africa, but has been reported in the United States. The monkeypox virus is part of the orthopoxvirus group of viruses, which includes other viruses such as smallpox and cowpox.

How is the disease spread?

Humans can get monkeypox from an infected animal through a bite or direct contact with the infected animal's blood, body fluids, or lesions. The disease can also be spread from person to person, and is similar to but is much less infectious than smallpox. The virus is thought to be spread by large respiratory droplets during direct and prolonged face-to-face contact. In addition, monkeypox can be spread by direct contact with body fluids of an infected person or with virus-contaminated objects, such as bedding or clothing.

How long after exposure until the first signs of illness appear?

Generally the first signs of the virus appear about 12 days after exposure to an animal or person infected with the virus.

What are the signs and symptoms of Monkeypox?

Monkeypox virus begins with a fever, headache, muscle aches, backache, swollen lymph nodes, a general feeling of discomfort and exhaustion. Within 1 to 3 days fever and a rash with small bumps will develop, often on the face first, but sometimes initially on other parts of the body. The bumps usually go through several stages before crusting and falling off. The illness usually lasts 2 to 4 weeks. Monkeypox in humans is rarely fatal.

How is monkeypox treated?

There is no treatment for monkeypox. The role of smallpox vaccine in persons who have been exposed to monkeypox is being assessed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

For more information on Monkeypox, call (248) 858-1406 or toll free
1 (800) 848-5533

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