



Monkeypox Frequently Asked Questions

Florida Department of Health

With content adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

August 17, 2022

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Basics

Q. [What is monkeypox?](#)

A. Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. Monkeypox virus is part of the same family of viruses as variola virus, the virus that causes smallpox. Monkeypox symptoms are similar to smallpox symptoms, but milder, and monkeypox is rarely fatal.

[Learn more about monkeypox](#)

Q. [Are there different types of monkeypox?](#)

A. There are two types of monkeypox virus: West African and Congo Basin. Infections in the current outbreak are from the West African type.

[Learn more about monkeypox](#)

Q. [Is monkeypox deadly?](#)

A. Infections with the type of monkeypox virus identified in this outbreak—the West African type—are rarely fatal. Over 99% of people who get this form of the disease are likely to survive. However, people with weakened immune systems, children under 8 years of age, people with a history of eczema, and people who are pregnant or breastfeeding may be more likely to get seriously ill or die.

The Congo Basin type of monkeypox virus has a fatality rate around 10%.

[Learn more about monkeypox](#)

Q. [When should someone get tested for monkeypox?](#)

A. People who think they have monkeypox or have had close personal contact with someone who has monkeypox should visit a health care provider to help them decide if they need to be tested for monkeypox. If they decide that you should be tested, they will work with you to collect the specimens and send them to a laboratory for testing.

Symptoms

Q. [What are the symptoms of monkeypox?](#)

A. Symptoms of monkeypox can include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle aches and backache
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Chills

- Respiratory symptoms (e.g. sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough)
- A rash that can look like pimples or blisters that appears on the face, inside the mouth, and on other parts of the body, like the hands, feet, chest, genitals, or anus.
 - The rash goes through different stages before healing completely. The illness typically lasts 2-4 weeks.

Sometimes, people get a rash first, followed by other symptoms. Others only experience a rash.

[Learn more about monkeypox signs and symptoms](#)

Q. What should I do if I have symptoms?

A. If you have symptoms:

- See a health care provider if you notice a new or unexplained rash or other monkeypox symptoms.
- Remind the health care provider that monkeypox is present in the United States.
- Avoid close contact (including intimate physical contact) with others until you see a health care provider.
- Avoid close contact with pets or other animals until you see a health care provider.
- If you're waiting for test results, follow the same precautions.
- If your test result is positive, stay isolated and observe other [prevention practices](#) until your rash has healed, all scabs have fallen off, and a fresh layer of intact skin has formed.
- Remain isolated if you have a fever, sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough. Only go out to see a health care provider or for an emergency. Avoid public transportation.
- If you must leave isolation, cover the rash and wear a well-fitting mask.

Spread

Q. How does monkeypox spread?

A. Monkeypox can spread from person to person through direct contact with the infectious rash, scabs, or body fluids. It also can be spread by respiratory secretions during prolonged, face-to-face contact, or during intimate physical contact, such as kissing, cuddling, or sex.

Monkeypox can spread from the time symptoms start until the rash has fully healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed. Anyone in close personal contact with a person with monkeypox can get it and should take steps to protect themselves.

[Learn more about how monkeypox spreads](#)

Q. [Is monkeypox a sexually transmitted infection \(STI\)?](#)

A. Monkeypox can more accurately be described as “sexually transmissible.” In other words, sex is just one of the ways that monkeypox can be spread. In the past, monkeypox outbreaks have been linked to direct exposure to infected animals and animal products, with limited person-to-person spread. In the current monkeypox outbreak, the virus is spreading primarily through close personal contact. This may include contact with infectious lesions or respiratory secretions via close, sustained skin-to-skin contact that occurs during sex. However, any close, sustained skin-to-skin contact with someone who has monkeypox can spread the virus. The contact does not have to be exclusively intimate or sexual.

[Learn more about lowering your risk of monkeypox during sex](#)

Testing

*Q. [I believe I have monkeypox. I do not have insurance and need to be tested.](#)

A. Testing and vaccination is being offered specific to screening and by appointment only. Contact your local County Health Department. The number to call is 386-437-7350 ext 7101 or your trusted Health Care Provider.

Q. [I was around someone who I think has monkeypox. What should I do?](#)

A. Monkeypox is primarily spread through direct skin-to-skin contact with someone who has a monkeypox rash, or materials in direct contact with that rash (e.g., clothing, towels). If you didn't have direct contact with an infected person or material in direct contact with the rash, your risk of being exposed is generally low. You can also call your doctor if you have questions about whether you might have been exposed to monkeypox. If you did have skin-to-skin contact with a person with a possible monkeypox rash in the past 2 weeks, you can contact your county health department to see whether you should receive a monkeypox vaccination.

Prevention

Q. [How can monkeypox be prevented?](#)

A. To prevent monkeypox:

- Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox.
- Avoid contact with objects and materials that a person with monkeypox has used.
- 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.

[Learn more about preventing monkeypox](#)

Q. [Should people be concerned about going to crowded events?](#)

A. People can get monkeypox if they have close, skin-to-skin contact with someone who has monkeypox. Early indications are that events with activities in which people engage in close,

sustained skin-to-skin contact have resulted in cases of monkeypox. If you plan to attend an event, consider how much close, personal, skin-to-skin contact is likely to occur there.

[Learn more about social gatherings and monkeypox](#)

Treatment

Q. What treatments are available for monkeypox?

A. Antivirals, such as tecovirimat (TPOXX), may be recommended for people who are more likely to get severely ill, like patients with weakened immune systems.

[Learn more about monkeypox treatment](#)

*Q. I am in need of monkeypox antivirals, and it is Sunday. Where can I access the medication?

A. Contact your local hospital or urgent care center.

*Q. I'm uninsured and don't have a doctor. How can I get monkeypox antivirals?

A. Contact your local County Health Department at 386-437-7350 ext 7101

Vaccination

Q. Is there a vaccine to prevent monkeypox?

A. Because monkeypox and smallpox viruses are genetically similar, vaccines developed to protect against smallpox viruses may be used to prevent monkeypox infections.

The U.S. government has two stockpiled vaccines—JYNNEOS and ACAM2000—that can prevent monkeypox in people who are exposed to the virus.

[Learn more about monkeypox vaccines](#)

Q. Where can you find out if you're eligible for vaccine?

A. If you think you may be eligible for vaccination, contact a health care provider or your local health department. They can help you determine if you should get vaccinated.

[Learn more about monkeypox vaccines](#)

Q. Who is recommended to get monkeypox vaccine in Florida?

A. The Department of Health works closely with county health departments on trends in cases in their areas. Due to the limited amount of vaccine available, the following groups are being prioritized for vaccination:

- A close contact to a known monkeypox case in the last 14 days
- Men who have sex with men (MSM) with potential exposure to monkeypox such as:
 - MSM who have received a diagnosis of an STD in the past two months

- MSM with more than one intimate partner in the past two months or who are planning to engage with multiple partners in the next two months
- MSM who has one intimate partner with potential exposure to monkeypox
- MSM with HIV
- Laboratory personnel and selected health care personnel at high risk for monkeypox
- Other high-risk groups that are identified from epidemiological investigations

Q. If I am a man and have had multiple male sexual partners recently, does that automatically make me eligible for the vaccine?

A. No. Having multiple sexual partners is one consideration, but there are others, such as whether you live in an area with ongoing spread of monkeypox or if one of your partners has recently been infected with monkeypox. If you think you have monkeypox or might be at risk for infection, contact a health care provider.

[Learn more about monkeypox vaccines](#)

Q. Should everyone who is sexually active get vaccinated?

A. No, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not recommend widespread vaccination against monkeypox at this time. During this outbreak, people who are sexually active are not considered to be at risk for monkeypox unless their sexual partners have monkeypox or they have had multiple sexual partners within the past 14 days in areas where monkeypox cases have been reported.

[Learn more about who should get vaccinated](#)

*Q. I would like to get the monkeypox vaccine and I meet the risks as shown on the Florida Department of Health website. Where can I go to get the vaccine?

A. Testing and vaccination is being offered specific to screening and by appointment only. Contact your local County Health Department. The number to call is 386-437-7350 ext 7101 or your trusted Health Care Provider.

Q. Am I protected from monkeypox after I get vaccinated?

A. Data indicate that there is an immune response following the administration of one dose of Jynneos vaccine. However, Jynneos demonstrates the strongest immune response after the second dose of vaccine, administered 28 days after the first dose of vaccine. Even if you are vaccinated against monkeypox, it is still recommended that you take steps to protect yourself from potential exposure to the virus.

Q. How much does the monkeypox vaccine cost?

A. At this time, the vaccine provider cannot charge you for the vaccine dose and the vaccine provider must administer the vaccine regardless of your ability to pay administration fees. Vaccine providers may seek appropriate reimbursement from a program or plan that covers Monkeypox vaccine administration fees for the vaccine recipient (vaccine recipient's private insurance company or Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement).

Monkeypox and HIV

Q. Are people with HIV more likely to get monkeypox?

A. CDC doesn't know if having [HIV](#) increases the likelihood of getting monkeypox. Monkeypox can spread to anyone through prolonged, close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact, as well as through contact with objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox, or contact with respiratory secretions, through kissing and other face-to-face contact.

Q. Are people with HIV more likely to have more severe illness if they get monkeypox?

A. CDC continues to monitor monkeypox among people with HIV. During the current monkeypox outbreak, there does not appear to be more severe monkeypox illness in people who have HIV and are [virally suppressed](#) (having less than 200 copies of HIV per milliliter of blood). In fact, the [World Health Organization \(WHO\) monkeypox guidance](#) states, "People living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy with suppressed viral load are not considered to be immunosuppressed." However, people with HIV who are not virally suppressed may be at increased risk for severe illness and death from monkeypox.

Q. What treatment is recommended for people with HIV who get monkeypox?

A. Currently there is no treatment approved specifically for monkeypox. However, medicine (antivirals) developed for use in patients with smallpox may help treat people with monkeypox.

[See the CDC monkeypox Treatment Information for Health Care Professionals page](#)

Q. Is a vaccine recommended and are vaccines safe for people with HIV?

A. At this time, vaccination is recommended for people with exposures to a probable or confirmed case with monkeypox, for example people who have had close physical contact with someone diagnosed with monkeypox. Vaccination may also be offered to people who had a presumed exposure, such as men who have sex with men who have had multiple sexual partners during the past 14 days in a jurisdiction with known monkeypox activity.

There are currently two licensed vaccines in the United States to prevent smallpox—JYNNEOS and ACAM2000. These smallpox vaccines may provide protection against monkeypox because smallpox and monkeypox are very similar viruses. Only JYNNEOS is FDA approved for the prevention of monkeypox in people 18 and older.

Q. Will monkeypox treatment or vaccines interact with HIV medications?

A. Data are limited, but most HIV treatment can be safely given with monkeypox treatment and smallpox vaccines. People with HIV should inform their health care provider of all their medications to help determine if any interactions exist.

Q. Does monkeypox affect how well pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) works for HIV prevention?

A. No, [HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis \(PrEP\)](#) is still effective and should be continued as prescribed.

Q. [What can people with HIV do to protect themselves from monkeypox?](#)

A. People with HIV should follow the same recommendations as everyone else to protect themselves from monkeypox.

- Avoid direct contact with rashes, sores, or scabs on a person with monkeypox, including during intimate contact such as sex. We believe this is currently the most common way that monkeypox is spreading in the U.S.
- Avoid contact with objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox.
- Avoid contact with respiratory secretions, through kissing and other face-to-face contact from a person with monkeypox.

For more information, including guidance around sex, visit [Monkeypox Facts for People Who are Sexually Active | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#)

Pets and Animals

Q. [Could my pet get monkeypox?](#)

A. Monkeypox is zoonotic, meaning it can spread between animals and people. However, CDC does not currently believe that monkeypox poses a high risk to pets. We are continuing to monitor the situation closely.

[Learn more about monkeypox and your pets in the home](#)

Clinical Considerations

Q. [Where can I get monkeypox testing and what samples do I need?](#)

A. Most large commercial laboratories now offer monkeypox/*Orthopoxvirus* molecular testing of rash skin lesions including LabCorp, Quest, ARUP, Aegis Science Corporation, AIT Laboratories, CardioPath, John Hopkins and Mayo Clinic Laboratories. Please contact the laboratory you regularly use for details on how to collect samples. Some laboratories may provide special media for you to use. Most laboratories have sample collection information on their Web pages. Testing of uninsured patients with rash and epidemiologic risk factors is also available through your county health department.

Q. [What infection control measures should I use when collecting samples from a suspect monkeypox case?](#)

A. CDC recommends using standard, contact and respiratory precautions (gown, gloves, eye protection and a N95-respirator) when collecting samples from monkeypox skin lesions. Careful handling of sharps as per standard practice is also recommended. More information can be found here: www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/infection-control-healthcare.html#anchor_1653508909869

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*Q.I am a primary care provider, and my patient has confirmed monkeypox and needs medication to treat. Where can I send my patient for monkeypox antivirals?

A. Testing and vaccination is being offered specific to screening and by appointment only. Contact your local County Health Department. The number to call is 386-437-7350 ext 7101 or your trusted Health Care Provider.

Q.If I want to prescribe TPOXX for a patient, what do I need to do?

A. Please contact your county health department to find out how to obtain monkeypox antivirals (tecovirimat/TPOXX). TPOXX is available under a CDC Expanded Access Investigational New Drug (EA-IND) protocol and requires certain forms to be filled out by the patient and their provider. See the "Required" section on this Web page to access the required forms: www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/obtaining-tecovirimat.html. The EA-IND amendment also provides helpful information about what are required vs. optional activities in the original IND.

Q. I would like to offer the monkeypox vaccine to my patients. Can I order the vaccine or are just county health departments vaccinating?

A. There is no vaccine available for ordering through private channels. Please contact your local county health department to check on the availability.

Q. My practice provides care to many clients who are gay, bisexual or other men who have sex with men, and I would like to be able to provide them with monkeypox vaccination. How can I get the vaccine in my office?

A. There is no vaccine available for ordering through private channels. Please contact your local county health department to check on the availability.

Q. If a patient had the first dose of vaccine administered subcutaneously, can the second dose be administered intradermally?

A. Yes.

