

# Monkeypox FAQ

## What is Monkeypox?

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 like smallpox symptoms, but milder, and monkeypox is rarely fatal. People with weakened immune systems, children under eight years old, people with a history of eczema, and people who are pregnant or breastfeeding may be more likely to get seriously ill.

## What are Monkeypox symptoms?

People with monkeypox get a rash that may be on the genitals, hands, feet, chest, face, or mouth.

- The rash will go through several stages, including scabs, before healing.
- The rash can initially look like pimples or blisters and may be painful or itchy.

### **Other symptoms of monkeypox can include:**

- Fever, chills, swollen lymph nodes
- Exhaustion, muscle/back/head aches
- Respiratory symptoms (sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough)

## How does Monkeypox spread?

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.
- A pregnant person can spread the virus to their fetus through the placenta.

It's also possible for people to get monkeypox from infected animals. This may include pets.

A person with monkeypox can spread it to others from the time symptoms start until the rash has fully healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed. The illness typically lasts 2-4 weeks.

## When should someone get tested for Monkeypox?

People who think they have monkeypox or have had close personal contact with someone who has monkeypox should contact their Everside Health 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.

## What treatments are available for Monkeypox?

Due to genetic similarities, antiviral drugs and vaccines used to treat smallpox may also be used to treat monkeypox infections. The CDC does not recommend the monkeypox vaccine for the general public. The vaccine is available for people who have been exposed to Monkeypox or are at high risk for exposure.

## How can Monkeypox be prevented?

- 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.
- Vaccines may be used to prevent or treat monkeypox infections. Your provider and local health department can advise whether a vaccine may be right for you.

## Can pets get monkeypox?

Monkeypox is zoonotic, meaning it can spread between animals and people. Although the CDC does not believe that monkeypox poses a high risk to pets, it may be possible for people who are infected to spread monkeypox to animals through close contact, including petting, sharing sleeping areas, and sharing food. To keep the virus from spreading, people with monkeypox should avoid contact with animals.

**Sources:** [About Monkeypox | CDC](#), accessed 8/12/2022; [Monkeypox FAQs | CDC](#), accessed 8/14/2022