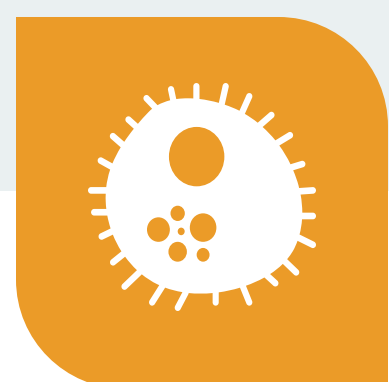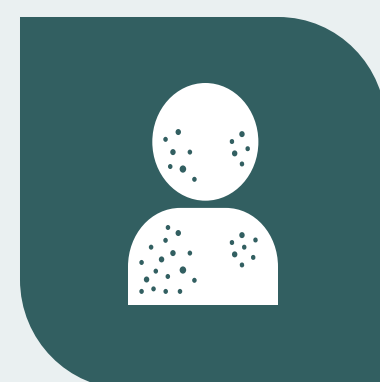# Monkeypox Key Facts

Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by the monkeypox virus.

Monkeypox can make you sick including a rash or sores (pox), often with an earlier flu-like illness.

Monkeypox can spread to anyone through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact.

Symptoms

- Early flu-like symptoms of monkeypox can include fever, headache, muscle aches, backache, swollen lymph nodes, chills, and exhaustion

- Rash appears within 1 to 3 days (sometimes longer) after fever, often beginning on the face then spreading to other parts of the body

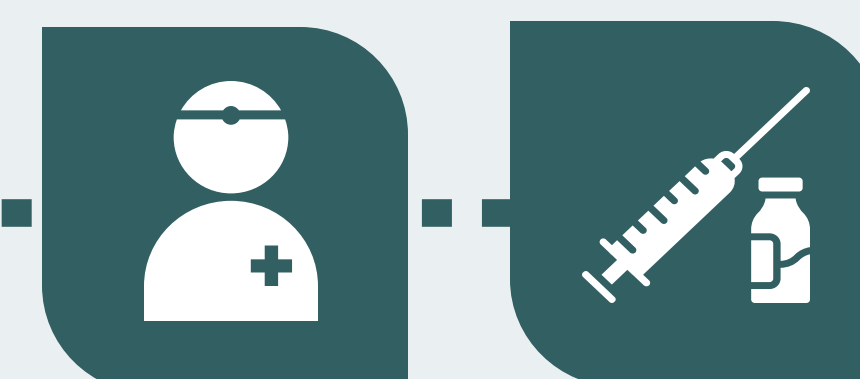- Illness usually lasts 2–4 weeks

Transmission

- Monkeypox can spread through:

  - Direct contact with monkeypox rash, sores or scabs

  - Contact with objects, clothing, bedding, towels, or surfaces used by someone with monkeypox

  - Respiratory droplets or oral fluids from a person with monkeypox

- Monkeypox can spread from the time symptoms start until all sores have healed, which can take several weeks

Recent Clusters of Monkeypox

- Cases of monkeypox have been recently reported in several countries that don't normally have monkeypox activity, including the United States

- It's not clear how the individuals were exposed to monkeypox but cases include people who self-identify as men who have sex with men

Diagnosis & Treatment

- Healthcare providers should be alert for patients with rash illnesses consistent with monkeypox, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, particularly those with travel history or other risk factors

- There is no specific treatment for monkeypox, although antivirals developed for use in patients with smallpox may be beneficial

Recommendations for the Public

- Risk to the general public is low

- Seek medical care immediately if you are concerned you have monkeypox

- Avoid close contact with sick people, including people with skin lesions or genital lesions

For More Information

- Contact your healthcare provider with medical questions

- Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website