Monkeypox spreads in different ways. The virus can spread from person-to-person through:

- Direct contact with the infectious rash, scabs, or body fluids
- Respiratory secretions during prolonged, face-to-face contact, or during intimate physical contact, such as kissing, hugging, or sex
- Touching items (such as clothing or linens) that previously touched the infectious rash or body fluids
- Handling items that have come into contact with an infectious person

Additionally, due to ongoing structural and social determinants of health such as access to transportation, inability to take time off work, lack of access to quality healthcare, housing, and food insecurity, and not being able to work safely or obtain necessary resources, people at risk for acquiring monkeypox include those already marginalized from health disparities.


Factsheet for Reporters on Monkeypox (MPV) and the LGBTQ Community. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Monkeypox.


To help you reflect, here are a few resources for review.

Removal of Stigma and Shame to Advance Health Equity

Inclusive Excellence Advances Health Equity

Struggle to protect gay, bisexual men from monkeypox exposes inequities

In the United States, there is currently a limited supply of JYNNEOS, although more is expected in the coming weeks and months.

How it spreads:

- Monkeypox can spread 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. People who do not have monkeypox symptoms cannot spread the virus to others. At this time, it is not known if monkeypox can spread through semen or vaginal fluids.

What is monkeypox?

Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. Symptoms are similar to smallpox, but milder; and monkeypox is rarely fatal. Monkeypox symptoms are similar to smallpox and can appear 2-12 days after exposure to the virus. The rash that appears on the face, inside the mouth, hands, feet, chest, genitals, or anus.

What are the most common symptoms?

Fever
Swollen lymph nodes
Muscle aches and backache
Chills
Exhaustion
 Rash that looks like chickenpox
Hair loss
Swollen hands and feet

How can it be prevented?

Vaccination

In the United States, there is currently a limited supply of JYNNEOS, although more is expected in the coming weeks and months.

How can it be treated?

In the United States, there is currently a limited supply of JYNNEOS, although more is expected in the coming weeks and months.

19,188 cases of monkeypox were reported worldwide.

Between 1970-2022, 3,590 cases have been reported in the United States.

There are 350 cases in Illinois and the number increases daily.

Talking about Monkeypox in class with and others

There has been a lot of parallels drawn between the lack of response between the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the early days of COVID-19. What public health mistakes are being repeated, which ones have be learned from, and what are the dangers of failing to learn from past mistakes?

As monkeypox spreads, know the difference between warning and stigmatizing people. Resources available to vaccinate everybody who needs it. Consider this information in light of structural and social determinants of health and marginalized populations in advancing health equity?

To those concerned with reaching equitable health outcomes should work to educate themselves and others about monkeypox and vaccine availability. People are encouraged to get vaccinated, testing, and take action to protect themselves.

How does monkeypox spread?