



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Butler County
General Health District

MONKEYPOX:

FACT SHEET

What is monkeypox?

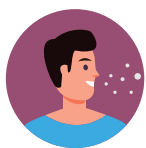
Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. The virus is part of the same family of viruses that causes smallpox. Monkeypox is rarely fatal but can cause painful lesions, sickness and discomfort.

How is monkeypox transmitted?

The virus can pass 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, cuddling, or sex



touching items (such as clothing or linens) that previously touched the infectious rash or body fluids



pregnant people can spread the virus to their fetus through the placenta

Visual examples of monkeypox rash



Photo credit: UK Health Security Agency

Known contacts of individuals experiencing monkeypox will be contacted by public health:

Contacts of animals or people confirmed to have monkeypox should be monitored for symptoms for 21 days after their last exposure.

- Contacts that remain asymptomatic can continue routine daily activities (e.g., go to work, school). Contacts should not donate blood, cells, tissue, breast milk, semen, or organs while they are under symptom surveillance.

Symptoms of concern include:

headache

fever $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ (38°C)*

swollen lymph nodes

exhaustion

backache

chills

new skin rash*

muscle pain

*Fever and rash occur in nearly all people infected with monkeypox virus.

If you are experiencing symptoms of monkeypox, contact your healthcare provider.

Monkeypox can be transmitted 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. **If you suspect you have been exposed, contact your healthcare provider.**