

ODP and HCQU News Alert

Monkeypox



About

- Rare disease caused by the monkeypox virus belonging to the Orthopoxvirus genus
- First discovered in 1958
- Majority of the infections are in Democratic Republic of Congo
- Cases outside of Africa linked to international travel or imported animals
- Rodents and non-human primates harbor the virus



Signs and Symptoms

- Incubation period (time from infection to symptoms): 7-14 days
- Fever, headache, muscle aches, backache, swollen lymph nodes, chills, fatigue
- Within 1-3 days of fever, a rash develops often starting on the face before spreading
- Rash goes through various stages before falling off
- Illness lasts for 2-4 weeks



Treatment

- Most people recover without any treatment
- Some people can progress to severe disease depending on their health status and co-morbidities
 - Can be treated using antivirals approved for smallpox in consultation with CDC
 - No specific treatment has been approved for monkeypox



Prevention

- Avoid contact with animals that can harbor the virus
- Avoid contact with materials that have been in contact with a sick animal
- Avoid contact with people who may have a similar rash
- Practice good hand hygiene
- Vaccine for monkeypox has been previously approved and is being evaluated for occupational settings



U.S Monkeypox 2022: Situation Summary

- 19 cases have been confirmed since 6/1/22
- Unclear how cases were exposed, but early data suggests that gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men make up a high number of cases
- But, this does NOT mean that it is a sexually transmitted disease approved vaccine in this group.



What You Should Do

- Anyone with a rash that looks like monkeypox should talk to their healthcare provider, even if they don't think they had contact with someone who has monkeypox. People who may be at higher risk might include but are not limited to those who:
- Had contact with someone who had a rash that looks like monkeypox or someone who was diagnosed with confirmed or probable monkeypox
- Had skin-to-skin contact with someone in a social network experiencing monkeypox activity, this includes men who have sex with men who meet partners through an online website, digital application (“app”), or social event (e.g., a bar or party)
- Traveled outside the US to a country with confirmed cases of monkeypox or where monkeypox activity has been ongoing
- Had contact with a dead or live wild animal or exotic pet that exists only in Africa or used a product derived from such animals (e.g., game meat, creams, lotions, powders, etc.)

