



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Rock Island County
Health Department

Monkeypox is a rare but potentially serious 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. The symptoms of monkeypox are similar to but milder than the symptoms of smallpox. Most people who contract monkeypox will develop a rash, and some will develop flu-like symptoms beforehand. The flu-like symptoms may include fever, headache, muscle aches and backache, sore throat, cough, swollen lymph nodes, chills, or exhaustion. Sometimes, people get a rash first, followed by other symptoms. Others only experience a rash. Symptoms usually start within three weeks of exposure to the virus. Most infections last 2 to 4 weeks.

Anyone with a new or unexplained rash or a rash that looks like monkeypox should talk with their healthcare provider, even if they don't think they had contact with someone who has monkeypox. Avoid close contact (including intimate physical contact) with others until a healthcare provider examines you. Monkeypox does not spread easily between people; however, anyone in close contact with a person with monkeypox can get it and should take steps to protect themselves.

To prevent monkeypox infection:

- Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox.
- Do not touch the rash or scabs of a person with monkeypox.
- Do not kiss, hug, cuddle or have sex with someone with monkeypox.
- Do not share eating utensils or cups with a person with monkeypox.
- Do not handle or touch the bedding, towels, or clothing of a person with monkeypox.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Currently, there is no specific treatment for the monkeypox virus infection; however, smallpox antiviral drugs and vaccines may be used to help prevent and treat monkeypox virus infections.

Rock Island County Health Department is working to identify known contacts to inform them about how to monitor their health and seek care if symptoms appear. If indicated, they are offered timely vaccination based on exposure risk. Persons with monkeypox are recommended to self-isolate and at this time, there is no indication there is risk of extensive local spread of the virus.

Rock Island County Health Department has received limited doses of the JYNNEOS monkeypox vaccine. Healthcare providers are able to request the vaccine through RICHD. CDC recommends vaccination for people who have been in close contact with people who have monkeypox. While this current outbreak is largely affecting gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men, it is important to know anyone can get monkeypox. Currently, people who may be eligible for vaccination include:

- People who have been identified as a contact of someone with monkeypox
- People who are aware that one of their sexual partners in the past two weeks was diagnosed with monkeypox
- People who had multiple sexual partners in the past two weeks in an area with known monkeypox

Rock Island County health care providers who believe they have patients who are in a high risk category as described, please contact the Rock Island County Health Department at 309-794-7080 and speak with a nurse about possibility of vaccination.

Other Resources for Healthcare Providers

- [IDPH Monkeypox Suspect Case Checklist](#)
- [IDPH Lab Criteria for Monkeypox Testing](#)

- [IDPH Guidelines for Monkeypox Specimen Collection](#)
- [IDPH Laboratory Test Requisition form](#)
- [Isolation and Infection Control at Home](#)
- [Isolation and Infection Control in a Healthcare Facility](#)
- [Monkeypox for Healthcare Providers Webinar Recording from 07/07/2022](#)

- [Monkeypox for Healthcare Providers Webinar slide deck](#)
- [Preventing Monkeypox Spread in Congregate Settings](#)
- [Home Cleaning and Disinfection](#)