Mpox: What to Know



December 2022

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How Does Mpox Spread?

Mpox, formerly called monkeypox, is a rare disease that can spread through close, in-person or physical contact including:

- o Direct contact with mpox rash, sores or scabs
- o Contact with objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding or towels) and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox
- o Breathing in respiratory droplets or oral fluids from a person with mpox (respiratory droplets are saliva, mucus and other matter that come out when we breathe, speak, sneeze or cough)
 - Airborne transmission usually requires prolonged face-to-face contact

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Mpox can spread from the time symptoms begin until all sores have healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed, which can take several weeks

What Are Mpox Symptoms?

Early symptoms of mpox are flu-like and can include:

- o Fever
- o Headache
- o Muscle aches and backache
- o Swollen lymph nodes
- o Chills
- o Exhaustion

A rash or sores, sometimes located on or near or inside the genitals or anus, but sometimes on other areas like the hands, feet, chest, face or inside the mouth



Some people experience a rash or sores first, followed by other symptoms; some only experience a rash or sores

Who Is at Risk for Mpox?

While a majority of cases in the current phase of the 2022 mpox outbreak are in gay and bisexual men, anyone can contract the virus. People who have had close contact with an infected person, regardless of their sexual orientation, are at risk. The infectious period begins when the rash, sores or scabs are present on the body.



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What Should You Do if ...

You've been in contact with someone who received a diagnosis of mpox or has a similar rash?

- See your health care provider
- Avoid physical contact, including sex or intimate contact, with anyone until you have been checked out

You have a new or unexplained rash or sores?

- See your health care provider and remind them that mpox is spreading in the United States
- Avoid physical contact, including sex or intimate contact, with anyone until you have been checked out

You have been diagnosed with mpox?

- Follow treatment and prevention recommendations of your health care provider
- Avoid physical contact, including sex or intimate contact, with anyone until all sores have healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed
- Ask your provider about participating in a clinical trial evaluating treatment for mpox (www.stomptpoxx.org).

