

# Monkeypox: The Basics



**Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus.**

- Cases of monkeypox have been identified in several countries that don't normally report monkeypox, including the U.S.
- Monkeypox symptoms are similar to smallpox symptoms, but milder, and monkeypox is rarely fatal. Monkeypox is not related to chickenpox.

## **Symptoms of monkeypox can include:**

- Fever
- Chills
- Headache
- Exhaustion
- Backache
- Muscle aches
- Respiratory symptoms (e.g. sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough)
- A rash that can look like pimples or blisters that appears on the face, inside the mouth, and on other parts of the body, like the hands, feet, chest, genitals, or anus

## **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, cuddling, or sex with someone infected with monkeypox
- Touching items (such as clothing or linens) that previously touched the infectious rash or body fluids

**While anyone can get monkeypox, the current outbreak is spreading through specific social networks, including men who have sex with men. If you are a man who has sex with other men, you are more likely to be exposed to monkeypox at this time.**

**Based on updated eligibility guidance from DHS, vaccination is now recommended for:**



People who know that a sexual partner in the past 14 days was diagnosed with monkeypox



People who attended an event or venue where there was known monkeypox exposure



Gay, bisexual, trans, and any other men who have sex with men, who have had multiple sexual partners in the past 14 days

**Wisconsin currently has a limited supply of monkeypox vaccine. At this time, Brown County Public Health is focusing on those who have known exposures and people with certain risk factors.**

**If you had close, personal contact with someone confirmed to have monkeypox, have symptoms of monkeypox, or believe you meet eligibility criteria for vaccination, please contact your healthcare provider to get connected with testing and treatment.**

