WHAT IS IT? Monkeypox is a viral illness with symptoms similar to smallpox, but less severe.

WHO CAN GET IT? ANYONE can get monkeypox. Monkeypox can spread from the time symptoms start until the rash has fully healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed. The illness typically lasts two to four weeks.

HOW IS IT TRANSMITTED? Monkeypox is transmitted from person to person through:
- Direct contact with the infectious rash, scabs or body fluids.
- Respiratory transmission 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.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS? Symptoms include fever, headache, muscle aches, backache, swollen lymph nodes, chills, exhaustion, and a rash that can look like pimples or blisters.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT:
- Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like 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.
- If you or your partner has monkeypox, avoid sex of any kind and avoid kissing or touching each other while you are sick.
- Thoroughly wash objects or fabrics that have come into contact with an infected person.
- JYNNEOS, an FDA-approved vaccine to prevent smallpox and monkeypox, is being used in this outbreak to prevent infection in people who have experienced high risk exposures.

Monkeypox: Myth vs. Facts

MYTH: Monkeypox is an STD.
FACT: Although monkeypox can be spread through intimate physical contact with someone with a rash, evidence doesn’t currently suggest that virus can be transmitted specifically through semen, vaginal fluid, or other sexual transmission routes.

MYTH: MSM and the LGBTQ community are the only people at risk for monkeypox.
FACT: Anyone can get monkeypox. Unprotected skin-to-skin contact between a patient and their household members, or between a patient and caregiver can transmit the virus.

MYTH: Monkeypox is a new virus and only affects people from African countries.
FACT: While monkeypox has historically been most common in the central and western African regions, a person of any race or ethnicity can contract monkeypox.

MYTH: Monkeypox is fatal.
FACT: Monkeypox cases that are part of the current global outbreak are rarely fatal. Over 99% of people who get monkeypox are likely to survive. However, people who are immunocompromised, children under eight, people with a history of eczema, and people who are pregnant or breastfeeding are at risk for more serious illness with monkeypox.

For more information:
www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox