The Facts About **Monkeypox**

**WHAT IS IT?**

Monkeypox is a rare infection caused by the monkeypox virus. An increasing number of cases have been reported in the U.S., Canada, and Europe—areas where it isn’t usually found.

**HOW IS IT SPREAD?**

The virus can spread to anyone through close, personal, or skin-to-skin contact, including:

- Contact with monkeypox rash, sores or scabs
- Contact with objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox
- Through respiratory droplets or saliva from a person with monkeypox
- Pregnant people can spread the virus to their fetus during pregnancy

▶ These kinds of contact can happen during:
  - Hugging, kissing, touching, massage
  - Close, sexual contact
  - Prolonged face-to-face contact with a person with monkeypox

▶ Touching fabrics and objects during sex that were used by a person with monkeypox, such as bedding, towels and sex toys

▶ The virus can be spread in fluid or pus from monkeypox sores. It is not yet known if it is present in semen or vaginal fluids.

**WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?**

▶ Monkeypox causes a rash or sores. It can also make you feel like you have the flu.

▶ Flu-like symptoms can include:
  - Fever
  - Headache
  - Muscle aches and backache
  - Swollen glands
  - Chills
  - Fatigue

▶ A rash or sores can be on the hands, feet, chest, face, penis, or inside or on the mouth, vagina, and anus.

▶ The sores can look like pimples or blisters, and may be painful or itchy.

▶ They will go through several stages, including scabs, before healing.

▶ Monkeypox can be spread from the time symptoms start until all sores have healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed—this can take several weeks.

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS**

**If you have a new or unexplained rash, sores, or other symptoms...**

▶ See your healthcare provider. If you don’t have a provider or health insurance, visit [https://health.maryland.gov/CSTIP/local](https://health.maryland.gov/CSTIP/local) to find a health department near you.

▶ When you see a healthcare provider for possible monkeypox, remind them that this virus may be circulating in the community.

▶ Avoid close physical contact with anyone until you have talked to a healthcare provider.

**If you or your partner have Monkeypox...**

▶ Follow the treatment and prevention recommendations of your healthcare provider.

▶ Avoid close physical contact with anyone until all your sores have healed and you have a fresh layer of skin formed.

For more information, please scan this code or visit [health.maryland.gov/monkeypox](http://health.maryland.gov/monkeypox)

This document was last revised August 17, 2022. This document is only updated when pertinent revisions are made.

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