### What is Monkeypox?

Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by the monkeypox virus. Monkeypox can make you sick, including a rash or sores (pox), often with an earlier flu-like illness. Monkeypox is rarely fatal.

### What are the symptoms of monkeypox?

**Symptoms can include:**

- Early flu-like symptoms of monkeypox can include:
  - fever
  - headache
  - muscle aches and backache
  - swollen lymph nodes
  - chills
  - exhaustion

- 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.

- Sometimes, people get a rash first, followed by other symptoms. Others only experience a rash. The rash goes through different stages before healing completely, typically 2-4 weeks.

### How does monkeypox spread?

Monkeypox spreads in different ways, it 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
- touching items, such as clothing or linens, that previously touched the infectious rash or body fluids

Monkeypox can spread from the time symptoms start until the rash has fully healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed. People who do not have monkeypox symptoms cannot spread the virus to others.

### How can I prevent monkeypox?

- Avoid close, skin to skin contact with the monkeypox rash
- Wash your hands often, especially after contact with sick people
- Consider the risks of attending events where close, personal skin-to-skin contact might occur, including raves, parties, clubs and festivals
- Talk to your partner about any recent illness and be aware of new or unexplained sores or rashes on your body

If you have a new or unexplained rash, sores, or other symptoms, see your healthcare provider and avoid sex or being intimate with anyone until you have been checked out.

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