

*Monkeypox Fact Sheet*  
*July 2022*

### **What is Monkeypox?**

Monkeypox is a virus with similar symptoms to smallpox, though less severe. It is transmitted from animals to humans, and it is spread between humans from close contact with respiratory secretions, skin lesions of an infected person or recently contaminated objects. ([WHO](#)).

Monkeypox is not an STD ([Philadelphia Inquirer](#)). As of July 25, 2022, Pennsylvania has confirmed 84 cases of monkeypox. ([CDC](#)).

### **Symptoms**

The incubation period (interval from infection to onset of symptoms) of monkeypox is usually from 6 to 13 days but can range from 5 to 21 days. ([WHO](#)).

Symptoms of monkeypox can include ([CDC](#))

- 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.

Monkeypox typically starts with fever, headache, lack of energy, swollen lymph nodes, and progresses to include skin lesions about 1-3 days after the fever starts. ([WHO](#)).

The rash goes through different stages before healing completely. The illness typically lasts 2-4 weeks. Sometimes, people get a rash first, followed by other symptoms. Others only experience a rash. ([CDC](#))

Severe cases can occur. In recent times, the case fatality ratio has been around 3–6% ([WHO](#))

### **How It Is Spread**

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 2-4 weeks. People who do not have monkeypox symptoms cannot spread the virus to others. ([CDC](#))

Monkeypox primarily spreads through direct, prolonged contact with the lesions, blemishes, or rashes it causes in infected people. Airborne spread appears to be rare, though close, extended

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contact with a person's breath through kissing or cuddling can spread the virus. ([Philadelphia Inquirer](#)).

Monkeypox can be spread by ([CDC](#)):

- 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
- pregnant people can spread the virus to their fetus through the placenta

### **Prevention**

To mitigate the risk of monkeypox infection, a person can ([WHO](#)):

- Avoid contact with infected persons
- Avoid caring for someone with monkeypox if you are not vaccinated
- Avoid handling samples from people or animals with monkeypox
- Avoid contact with wild animals
- Ensure meat is fully cooked before eating it to avoid contamination from food

### **Vaccine Availability**

The following Philadelphia clinics are offering vaccine appointments to their patients:

- Mazzoni Center
- PhiladelphiaFIGHT
- Presbyterian Hospital
- Drexel Partnership
- PennMedicine

Those who are not patients at one of the above clinics should call The Philadelphia Health Department's Call Center at 215-685-5488.

**Those who have some health conditions, particularly a weakened immune system, skin conditions like atopic dermatitis and eczema, or pregnancy should abstain from receiving the vaccine.**

Clinics in Philadelphia are currently administering the JYNNEOS vaccine. The JYNNEOS vaccine is made from a modified, non-replicating form of the vaccinia virus, which stems from the same family as monkeypox and smallpox. The vaccine is licensed to prevent monkeypox and smallpox.

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The JYNNEOS vaccine is administered in two doses over a 28-day interval. But Philadelphia is only administering one shot to ensure as many people as possible get at least one dose ([Philadelphia Voice](#)).

It is likely that the second dose won't be available within the recommended interval, they added. But research suggests the delay should not weaken the immune response of the second dose. Once more doses are available, the health department will work to contact people who need the second dose.

Additional Links: [Philadelphia MonkeyPox dashboard](#).

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