

TALKING POINTS: Monkeypox

PREPARED FOR
LOCAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

JULY 6, 2022

Key Messages	Supporting Information:
Monkeypox is an illness with increasing incidence but is usually not severe	US Case Count: www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/us-map.html Global Count: www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/world-map.html
	Children, pregnant women, and immunocompromised individuals are more likely to have severe illness.
	Most people recover without treatment over a period of 2-4 weeks.
If you have symptoms of monkeypox or have had contact with someone with monkeypox contact your healthcare provider	Symptoms of monkeypox include flu like symptoms, swollen lymph nodes and bumps that are filled with fluid or pus before scabbing over. Bumps may be all over or just a few.
	Monkeypox can look like some sexually transmitted infections or chickenpox.
	There are likely more monkeypox cases in the state than have been detected.
	If you have bumps or sores you think might be monkeypox, contact your primary care provider. If you don't have a primary care provider, contact your local health department.
Monkeypox is not transmitted as easily as COVID. Monkeypox is transmitted by close person to person contact	Monkeypox is transmitted person to person through direct contact with infectious rash or body fluids or through respiratory secretions during prolonged face-to-face contact, or during intimate physical contact, such as kissing, cuddling, or sex
	Standard household cleaners and detergents are effective at cleaning environmental surfaces and linens that have been contaminated with monkeypox virus.
There are no approved treatments for monkeypox. There are some medications that may help treat severe illness	Treatments to prevent monkeypox disease or make the disease less severe are available for some people who have been exposed to monkeypox. People who have had close contact with someone with monkeypox should contact the health department.
People who have been exposed can seek treatment within 14 days after exposure	Jynneos is a vaccine that is given from four to 14 days after exposure to prevent monkeypox. It can also be given in advance of exposure, but at this time it is not being used that way in North Carolina. ACAM2000 is also available, but requires special training to administer. It is also not recommended for people with a range of medical conditions, including heart disease.
Anyone can get monkeypox.	Anyone can get monkeypox, but many of the cases identified in the current outbreak have been in men who have sex with men, or transgender individuals, who have had multiple or anonymous sex partners in the last 14 days in either a venue where monkeypox was present or in an area where the virus is spreading. Cases have been identified in part thanks to the vigilance of those who sought testing when concerns arose leading to the recognition that monkeypox was spreading in the U.S.

Given the small number of cases currently reported, the state will not release additional detailed information about individuals with monkeypox to protect their privacy.