

Monkeypox Exposure Risk July 14, 2022

Medical providers should be at increased awareness for the spread of monkeypox virus throughout Illinois with most cases concentrated in Chicago and Cook Counties.

WCHD is asking all medical providers to:

- Review infection control practices to avoid healthcare worker exposures during the healthcare visit encounter.
- Have a high degree of suspicion of monkeypox if characteristic rash is present and client has [epidemiologic risk factors](#):
 - Contact with individuals with similar rash and/or diagnosis of monkeypox
 - Had close or intimate in-person contact with individuals in a social network experiencing monkeypox activity including men who have sex with men (MSM), who meet partners through online sites or applications, or social event.
 - Traveled outside the US to a country with confirmed cases of monkeypox or where Monkeypox virus is endemic; or
 - Had contact with a wild animal or exotic pet that is an African endemic species or used a product from such animals including meat, creams, lotions, powders, etc.
- Test for monkeypox virus via PCR through the following labs: LabCorp, Mayo Clinic, or Quest
- Test for other illnesses/infections with similar rashes based on history including:
 - Herpes
 - Shingles/varicella
 - Syphilis
- Provide guidance to suspect cases to isolate until test results are received.
- Contact WCHD immediately to report suspect cases at 815-720-4050

Symptoms of Monkeypox:

- Fever
- 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
- Headache
- Muscle aches and backache
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Chills
- Exhaustion

Monkeypox is spread through:

- Direct contact with an 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 objects, fabrics (such as clothing or linens) that previously touched the rash or body fluids of someone with monkeypox

Please contact WCHD's Communicable Disease Program 24/7 at 815-720-4050 with any questions or a suspected case.

Resource:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html>