



MPOX: FACT SHEET

What is MPox?

MPox is a rare disease caused by infection with the MPox virus. MPox virus is part of the same family of viruses as variola virus, the virus that causes smallpox. MPox Symptoms are similar to smallpox symptoms, but milder, and MPox is rarely fatal. MPox is not related to chickenpox.

How does MPox spread?

MPox Spreads in different ways. The virus 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



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

It's also possible for people to get MPox from infected animals, either by being scratched or bitten by the animal or by preparing or eating meat or using products from an infected animal.

MPox 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 Mpox symptoms cannot spread the virus to others. At this time, it is not known if MPox can spread through semen or vaginal fluids.

IF IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE CONTACT TO A POSITIVE CASE, YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED BY PUBLIC HEALTH:

Contacts of animals or people confirmed to have MPox should be monitored for symptoms for 21 days after their last exposure.

 Contacts that remain asymptomatic can continue routine daily activities (e.g., go to work, school).
 Contacts should not donate blood, cells, tissue, breast milk, semen, or organs while they are under symptom surveillance.

