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# Monkeypox: Get the Facts

- 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 can spread to anyone through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact including:
  - Direct contact with monkeypox rash, sores or scabs
  - Contact with objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox
  - Through respiratory droplets or oral fluids from a person with monkeypox
- This contact can happen during intimate sexual contact including:
  - Oral, anal, and vaginal sex
  - Hugging, massage, or mutual masturbation
  - Kissing and talking closely
  - Touching fabrics and objects during sex that were used by a person with monkeypox, such as bedding, towels and sex toys



- We know the virus can be spread in fluid or pus from monkeypox sores, and are trying to better understand if virus could be present in semen or vaginal fluids

## What Are the Symptoms?

- Early flu-like symptoms of monkeypox can include:
  - Fever
  - Headache
  - Muscle aches and backache
  - Swollen lymph nodes
  - Chills
  - Exhaustion



- A rash or sores, sometimes located on or near the genitals or anus, but sometimes in other areas like the hands, feet, chest or face – sores will go through several stages before healing
- Sores may be inside the body, including the mouth, vagina, or anus
- Some people experience a rash or sores first, followed by other symptoms and some only experience a rashor sores
- Monkeypox can be spread from the time symptoms start until all sores have healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed – this can take several weeks

## If You Have a New or Unexplained Rash, Sores, or Other Symptoms...

- See your healthcare provider – if you don't have a provider or health insurance, visit a public health clinic near you
- When you see a healthcare provider for possible monkeypox, remind them that this virus is circulating in the community
- Avoid sex or being intimate with anyone until you have been checked out



## If You or Your Partner Have Monkeypox...

- Follow the treatment and prevention recommendations of your healthcare provider
- Avoid sex or being intimate with anyone until all your sores have healed and you have a fresh layer of skin formed.

**For more information, please visit www.cdc.gov/monkeypox**