Monkeypox (MPV)

What you need to know to protect yourself and your community

WHAT IS MPV?

Monkeypox, or MPV, is part of the same family of viruses that cause smallpox (not related to chickenpox). MPV is primarily transmitted through close personal contact including kissing, sex, and other skin to skin contact.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Key symptoms are: rashes, bumps, and blisters. These may appear on the face, palms, or soles of your feet. Some other common symptoms are sores or lesions around the genital area.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW?

While the current U.S. MPV outbreak is disproportionately impacting gay, bisexual, same gender-loving-men, transgender, and non-binary communities, anyone can get MPV. Since it spreads primarily through direct skin-to-skin contact with a person infected with MPV, it is not limited or restricted to only these impacted communities. The virus knows no bounds!

HOW DO I PROTECT MYSELF?

Ask your sex partner/s about any symptoms they are having, such as any unusual rashes or sores in the last 3 weeks. Condoms & barrier methods may protect your anus/butt, mouth, penis, or vagina from exposure. However, condoms alone may not prevent exposure to MPV since the rash and blisters can occur on other parts of the body. Finding ways to reduce risk that works for you will help protect you.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

MPV is spread through direct skin to skin contact, like touching someone’s rash or sores, and sharing bedding or towels, or through respiratory droplets (kissing, coughing, or sneezing).

WHERE CAN I GO TO GET HELP?

If eligible, get vaccinated if you have recently been exposed to MPV. Talk with a trusted health care provider, or contact your local health department, the number below, or this website (mpoxvaxmap.org) for help and ease in finding the nearest vaccination location.

MPV & COVID-19 HOTLINE

1-800-889-3931
dph.illinois.gov/monkeypox