**What is it?**

Monkeypox virus, or MPV, is part of the same family of viruses that cause smallpox (not related to chickenpox).

**Who can get it?**

Anyone can get or pass on MPV. However, the current risk of getting MPV in the general public is very low.

**How is it spread?**

- **Direct contact** with MPV rash, scabs, or bodily fluids* from someone with MPV.
  *Scientists continue to research how MPV spreads through various bodily fluids.
- Touching objects, fabrics, and surfaces that have been used by someone with MPV.
- A pregnant individual can also spread MPV to their unborn baby.
- Prolonged face-to-face or intimate skin-to-skin physical contact.

**What are MPV infection symptoms?**

- Rash with blisters that may appear anywhere on the body
- Fever
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Headaches
- Muscle and back aches
- Low energy

**Is it MPV, COVID-19, or an STI?**

Due to many similarities between MPV, COVID-19, and sexually transmitted infections (particularly syphilis), it is important to note some key differences.

Head to this link or scan the QR code for a quick breakdown.

Always consult with a medical provider if you have any symptoms of MPV, COVID-19, or an STI.

Last Updated: September 16, 2022
How to Protect Yourself and Others from Monkeypox (MPV)

Avoid intimate contact if you or your partner(s) have a new rash or sores, feel sick, or were recently exposed to MPV.

Routinely wash your hands and disinfect any shared objects or fabrics.

Talk with your trusted health care provider about testing, pain management or treatment if you have MPV symptoms or if eligible, get vaccinated if you have recently been exposed to MPV. Either talk to a trusted health care provider, or reach out to your local health department.

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An outbreak of MPV in the United States has lead to an uptick of cases in Illinois.

Health Tips & Info

Here's what you need to know

For more info go to: dph.illinois.gov/MPV

or use your phone's camera and scan the QR code below to be taken to IDPH's website on MPV.