Monkeypox (MPV) Health Tips & Info

An outbreak of MPV in the United States has led to an uptake of cases in Illinois.

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.

- Prolonged face-to-face or intimate skin-to-skin physical contact.

- A pregnant individual can also spread MPV to their unborn baby.

What are MPV symptoms?

- Rash with blisters that may appear anywhere on the body

- Fever

- Swollen lymph nodes

- Headaches

- Muscle and back aches

- Low energy

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.

- 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.

- Talk with your trusted health care provider about testing, pain management or treatment if you have MPV symptoms (or reach out to your local health department).

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.

For more info go to:

dph.illinois.gov/mpv

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