




Monkeypox (mpox) Comparison to COVID-19 & STIs

Due to many similarities between **mpox**, **COVID-19**, and **sexually transmitted infections** (particularly *syphilis*), below is a comparison table to display how mpox compares to these other infections:

 = similar to mpox
 = not similar to mpox

	Monkeypox (mpox)	COVID-19	Syphilis
How widespread?	<p>Low¹</p> <p>As of early September 2022, approximately 56,000 global cases, 21,000 in the U.S</p>	<p> High</p> <p>Hundreds of millions of cases since the start of pandemic</p>	<p> Low¹</p> <p>In 2020, there were 42,000 new cases of syphilis²</p>
How it is commonly spread	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primarily through direct contact with monkeypox rash or sores by very close and/or prolonged skin-to-skin contact Respiratory droplets (kissing, coughing, or sneezing) May spread during pregnancy to unborn baby 	<p> Through tiny droplets in the air by breathing, talking, sneezing, or coughing</p>	<p> Via skin-to-skin contact primarily through direct contact with syphilis rash or sores</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May spread during pregnancy to unborn baby
Signs & Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rash with blisters on face, hands, feet, body, mouth, anus/butt, or genital area. These may be painful! Fever Swollen lymph nodes Headaches Muscle and back aches Low energy Respiratory symptoms (e.g., sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough) 	<p> Fever</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Headaches Muscle aches Respiratory symptoms (e.g., sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough) <p> Trouble breathing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea Loss of taste and smell Cold symptoms 	<p> Rash on body, hands, and feet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sores in mouth, anus/butt, or genital areas <p> Though rash and sores are symptoms similar to monkeypox, syphilis rash and sores are typically NOT painful</p>
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid close physical contact with people that have symptoms Check your partner/s for rash or sores Avoid contact with contaminated materials Wear PPE (mask, gloves, eye protection) if you can't avoid close contact with someone who has symptoms Practice good hand hygiene Get vaccinated (if eligible), mpoxvaxmap.org Condoms & barrier methods may protect your anus/butt, mouth, penis, or vagina from exposure to mpox. However, condoms alone may not prevent all exposures to mpox since the rash and blisters can occur on other parts of the body. 	<p> Wear PPE (mask, gloves, eye protection) when around someone positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice good hand hygiene Get vaccinated (if eligible) Meet others outdoors or in well ventilated spaces 	<p> Avoid intimate contact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine discussions with your partner/s and health care provider Condoms & barrier methods may protect your anus/butt, mouth, penis, or vagina from exposure to syphilis. However, condoms alone may not prevent all exposures to syphilis since the rash and sores can occur on other parts of the body.

¹Though mpox and syphilis are of low concern for the general public, populations of focus are primarily among close sexual networks consistent of gay, bisexual, and other same gender loving men
²Specifically Primary & Secondary stages of syphilis, which are the most infectious stages