

MONKEYPOX INFORMATION FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Monkeypox disease, caused by the monkeypox virus, is part of the same family as the variola virus which is the virus that causes smallpox. African rodents and non-human primates (monkeys) may harbor the disease, but the true origin of monkeypox is unknown. The World Health Organization Director has declared the ongoing monkeypox outbreak a [Public Health Emergency of International Concern](#). The outbreak in the United States (U.S.) has prompted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to create [a monkeypox information page](#) on the CDC website to provide information on the disease, including [current data on the outbreak in the U.S.](#) and resources for [healthcare professionals](#).

West African Monkeypox is the type responsible for the current outbreak and is rarely fatal (99% survival rate). Those individuals with weakened immune systems, children under the age of 8 years old and people who are pregnant or breastfeeding may be more likely to get seriously ill or die.

CLINICAL PRESENTATION

Infected patients typically present with a rash with lesions that are firm or rubbery, well-circumscribed, deep-seated and often develop umbilication during the pustular stage (may be confused with secondary syphilis, herpes, chancroid or varicella zoster). The lesions will progress through specific sequential stages (macule, papule, vesicles, pustules and scabbing). Patients may have a febrile prodrome including malaise, chills, headache or lymphadenopathy.

CASE DEFINITIONS

[Case Definitions](#) for the 2022 monkeypox response are provided by the CDC and include criteria for suspect, probable and confirmed cases as well as epidemiologic and exclusion criteria. Testing should be completed on all patients presenting with a rash consistent with monkeypox.

VACCINATIONS & TREATMENT

The CDC has posted [Vaccination Strategies](#) for the two vaccines currently used in the United States for prevention:

- JYNNEOS vaccine is approved for the prevention of monkeypox and smallpox disease.
- ACAM2000 vaccine is approved for immunization against smallpox disease and made available for use against monkeypox under an Expanded Access Investigational New Drug (EA-IND) protocol.

Antivirals, such as tecovirimat (TPOXX), may be recommended for people who are more likely to get severely ill, like patients with weakened immune systems. This is not a specific treatment for monkeypox infection; however, it is used to treat smallpox and given that they are genetically similar, this antiviral may be recommended.

Most people with monkeypox recover fully within 2 to 4 weeks without the need for medical treatment.