

# Need to know...



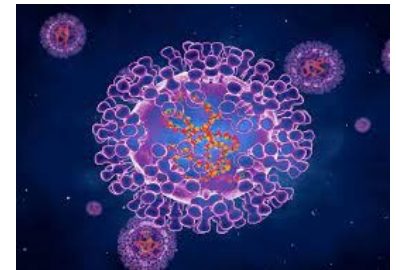
## Today's Topics:

- Monkeypox Update

We want you to know that an MGH Apollo site for **Monkeypox (MPX)** has been established to keep you informed. The Apollo site will change as new information becomes available. You can access the Monkeypox information on Apollo by clicking here: <https://apollo.massgeneral.org/monkeypox/>

### Background

MPX is a rare disease caused by an infection with the monkeypox virus part of the Orthopoxvirus genus (cause of smallpox). The majority of cases have occurred in West and Central Africa, however there have been cases outside of Africa related to travel in Africa or contact with animals imported from Africa. In 2021, there were 2 cases of MPX diagnosed in the United States, both from travelers from Nigeria. In mid-May 2022, several cases, first identified in the United Kingdom, were among individuals with *no* relevant travel or animal exposure. Earlier this week, MPX was identified in a patient admitted to MGH. This patient is receiving care in our Special Pathogens Unit.



Individuals who have been identified as having been exposed to the patient prior to suspicion for monkeypox are receiving support and follow-up from MGH experts. In the past several days, additional cases in the UK, Spain, and Portugal have been reported and public health experts are assessing for epidemiological links.

### Signs & Symptoms

MPX symptoms begin within 7-14 days (can be up to 21) of exposure with fever, headache, muscle aches, exhaustion, and lymph node swelling. Patients will develop a rash about 1-3 days after the onset of fevers, often starting at the face and then spreading. The rash can include macules, papules, vesicles, and pustules, which eventually scab over. Once scabbed over, the person is not considered infectious. The total illness cycle usually takes 2-4 weeks. The CDC does not consider individuals infectious prior to the onset of symptoms.

### Monkeypox Town Hall

Friday, May 20 at 12 pm.

#### Click link below:

[https://healthcare.partners.org/streaming/Live/MGH/TownHall/MGH\\_Townhall.html](https://healthcare.partners.org/streaming/Live/MGH/TownHall/MGH_Townhall.html)

### Transmission

Person-to-person transmission is thought to occur through respiratory droplets, direct contact with body fluids or lesion material, and indirect contact with lesion material such as through contaminated equipment, linens, or clothing.

### Infection Control

Patients with Suspected or Confirmed MPX are cared for under Strict Isolation. The [MPX First Steps Guide](#) walks staff through the basics of MPX and first steps to take if MPX is suspected. Link to [MGH Strict Isolation Policy](#)

### Exposures

Infection Control and Occupational Health have identified potential individuals who may have been exposed and supporting them with communications and follow up (see All User email, May 18,2022 at 4:52PM).

### Click on these links for the most up to date information:

MGH Resources

[Monkeypox-First-Steps-Guide.pdf \(massgeneral.org\)](#) Please note that this document is updated frequently and staff should refer to the online version.

[FAQs | Monkeypox \(massgeneral.org\)](#) Please note that this document is updated frequently and staff should refer to the online version.

Public Health Resources

[About Monkeypox | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#)

[MA DPH | Mass.gov](#)