

WHAT PEOPLE WHO ARE SEXUALLY ACTIVE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MONKEY POX



Having **multiple or anonymous sex partners** may increase your chances for exposure to monkeypox. Limiting your number of sex partners may reduce the possibility of exposure.

WHAT IS MONKEYPOX?

Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by the monkeypox virus. It can cause a rash which may look like pimples or blisters, sometimes with a flu-like illness.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

KEY SYMPTOM



RASH, BUMPS, OR BLISTERS

These may appear anywhere on the body, including the genitals or anus. This may look similar to syphilis, herpes, or other common skin rashes.

OTHER SYMPTOMS



FEVER & HEADACHES



MUSCLE ACHES



SWOLLEN LYMPH NODES

Symptom onset ranges from 5 - 21 days

HOW IS MONKEYPOX SPREAD?

Monkeypox can spread to anyone through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact including:

- Direct contact with monkeypox rash, scabs, or body fluids from a person who has monkeypox.
- Touching objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone who has monkeypox.
- Contact with respiratory secretions.



This exposure can happen during intimate contact including:

- Oral, anal, and vaginal sex or touching the genitals (penis, testicles, labia, and vagina) or anus (butthole) of a person who has monkeypox.
- Hugging, massage, and kissing.
- Prolonged face-to-face contact.
- Touching fabrics and objects during sex that were used by a person with monkeypox and that have not been disinfected, such as bedding, towels, and sex toys.



If you have a new or unexplained rash or other symptoms ...

- Avoid sex or being intimate with anyone until you have been checked out by a health care provider.
- If you don't have a health care provider, visit <https://vchca.org/agency-divisions/ambulatory-care> to find a one near you.



If you or your partner have monkeypox ...

- Follow the treatment and prevention recommendations of your health care provider.
- Avoid sex or being intimate with anyone until the rash has healed, scabs have fallen off and you have a fresh layer of skin.

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