



Monkeypox

Facts about Monkeypox

What is Monkeypox?

- Monkeypox* is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus.
- Human monkeypox virus (hMPXV) is an *Orthopoxvirus* genus that also includes smallpox and cowpox viruses.
- Monkeypox symptoms are like smallpox symptoms, but milder, and monkeypox is rarely fatal.
- Monkeypox is not related to chickenpox.

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

How does it affect the public?

While there are no cases in Las Animas or Huerfano Counties, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment confirmed the first case of Monkeypox in a resident of Pueblo County. CDPHE is completing the investigation and contact tracing for this confirmed case. The risk to the public continues to be low.

How to protect yourself?

Anyone who might have come into close contact with a person who has the virus, and has a new or unexplained rash or sores, should contact their health care provider as soon as possible. If you do not have a primary care physician, call the Pueblo Community Health Center (PCHC), an urgent care, or 2-1-1.

Transmission of the virus typically requires direct skin-to-skin contact, contact with body fluids, or prolonged face-to-face contact, including:

- Direct contact with rash, sores or scabs from a person who has the virus during intimate physical contact, such as kissing.
- Contact with objects, fabrics (such as clothing, bedding or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone who has the virus.
- Contact through prolonged close face-to-face conversation or face-to-face contact.

Monkeypox Symptoms

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle Aches and Backaches
- Chills
- Exhaustion
- Respiratory symptoms (e.g. sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough)
- A rash that may be located on or near the genitals (penis, testicles, labia, and vagina) or anus (butthole) but could also be on other areas like the hands, feet, chest, face, or mouth.

[Rash photos here.](#)

- The rash will go through several stages, including scabs, before healing.
- The rash can look like pimples or blisters and may be painful or itchy.

More information is available at <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/diseases-a-to-z/monkeypox>