

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Quick Reference on Monkeypox for Healthcare Settings

Activity	Recommendations for Monkeypox Infection Prevention and Control
Patient Evaluation and Management	<p>There are no monkeypox-designated healthcare facilities. All Pennsylvania healthcare facilities and providers should actively develop their readiness to safely evaluate, test, and treat patients with the proper infection prevention and control precautions in place.</p>
Communication	<p>Provide clear information to healthcare personnel, patients, and visitors about monkeypox prevention, including the potential for transmission through close, sustained physical contact, including sexual activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep messages fact-based to avoid introducing stigma.
Transmission	<p>Monkeypox can spread to anyone through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct contact with monkeypox rash, scabs, or body fluids from a person with monkeypox. This may include sexual or intimate contacts, hugging, kissing, massages, or prolonged face-to-face contact (less than 6 feet for 3 hours or more). • Touching objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox. • Contact with respiratory secretions. <p>Other modes of transmission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pregnant person can spread the virus to their fetus through the placenta. • It's also possible for people to get monkeypox from infected animals, either by being scratched or bitten by the animal or by preparing or eating meat or using products from an infected animal.
Isolation Precautions	<p>Any individual with suspected or confirmed monkeypox should be isolated, and if admitted should be placed in a single-patient room.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infection Prevention and Control staff should be notified immediately. • Ideally, people with monkeypox should remain in isolation for the duration of illness, which typically lasts two to four weeks and until all lesions have crusted, those crusts have separated, and a fresh layer of healthy skin has formed. Many patients have been experiencing mild illness and have not required hospitalization. • More information can be found here: Infection Prevention and Control of Monkeypox in Healthcare Settings Questions about isolation should be directed to the local or state health department as needed.
Patient Placement	<p>Single-patient room with dedicated bathroom. Keep door closed, if safe to do so.</p>

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Air Handling	No special air handling required.
Intubation/Extubation	Any procedures likely to spread oral secretions (e.g., open suctioning of airway secretions, sputum induction, etc.) should be performed in an airborne infection isolation room (AIIR) if available.
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gown • Gloves • Eye protection (e.g., goggles or face shield that covers front and sides of face) • NIOSH-approved particulate respirator equipped with N95 filters or higher <p>Ensure signage is posted on the patient's door to inform the healthcare personnel of the PPE that is required.</p>
Healthcare Personnel Management	<p>Any healthcare personnel caring for a monkeypox patient should self-monitor and look for symptoms consistent with monkeypox infection. Monitoring should continue for 21 days from the last date of care.</p> <p>Healthcare personnel who have unprotected exposures (i.e., not wearing PPE and a known breach) to patients with monkeypox do not need to be excluded from work, however they should undergo active surveillance for symptoms, which includes temperature measurement at least twice daily for 21 days following the exposure. Prior to reporting for work, exposed healthcare personnel should be surveyed for symptoms including fever and rash.</p>
Patient Transport	Limit transport to only medically necessary. If patient is transported out of their room, use source control (e.g., medical mask) on patient and cover any exposed skin lesions with a dressing, sheet, or gown.
Visitation	Visitation should be limited to those essential for the wellbeing of the patient. Also, visitors must be educated on infection prevention measures including hand hygiene and appropriate PPE prior to entering the room.
Waste Management	<p>Required waste management practices and classification depend on monkeypox virus clade (strain):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West African clade – should be managed as UN3291 Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) in the same manner as other potentially infectious medical waste (e.g., soiled dressings, contaminated sharps) • Congo Basin clade – should be managed as a Category A infectious substance; see the DOT website for more information <p>The current outbreak (since spring 2022) has been found to be associated with the West African clade.</p>

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<p>Environmental Cleaning</p>	<p>Facilities should ensure the protection of environmental services staff by implementing PPE and other protocols in compliance with OSHA standards.</p> <p>Standard cleaning and disinfection procedures should be performed using an EPA-registered hospital-grade disinfectant with an emerging viral pathogen claim (List Q). Activities that could resuspend dried material from lesions (e.g., use of portable fans, dry dusting, sweeping, or vacuuming) should be avoided.</p>
<p>Testing</p>	<p>Providers should consider testing any patient who presents with a rash or lesions that are consistent with monkeypox or presents with a rash or lesions and an epidemiologic risk factor for monkeypox.</p> <p>Multiple commercial laboratories are currently offering testing. Clinician seeking testing at a commercial diagnostic laboratory do not need to report or obtain approval from PA DOH prior to ordering the test. As an additional support, testing will also continue to be available through the Pennsylvania Department of Health’s Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) with approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Health or a local health department. Testing at BOL requires approval.</p>
<p>Treatment</p>	<p>All treatment requests must come through a provider. Providers should contact the local health department or the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology at 717-787-3350.</p>
<p>Vaccine</p>	<p>Persons who have been exposed or have participated in activities that put them at risk of exposure should contact their healthcare provider, their local health department, or 1-877-PA-HEALTH to seek evaluation of the risk.</p> <p>Healthcare workers needing post-exposure prophylaxis should also follow the same instructions to seek vaccine as needed.</p> <p>Information on where to get a monkeypox vaccine in Pennsylvania will be provided if persons meet eligibility criteria.</p>
<p>Public Health Reporting</p>	<p>Consultations are available from PA DOH, Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, at 717-787-3350 or their local health department should clinicians have specific questions about the evaluation and treatment of monkeypox cases or if clinicians want to obtain testing through the state public health laboratory. Clinicians do not need to notify PA DOH of suspected or confirmed cases as results from diagnostic labs are sent to PA-NEDSS, Pennsylvania's reportable disease database.</p>

VISUAL EXAMPLES OF MONKEYPOX RASH



Photo Credit: NHS England High Consequence Infectious Diseases Network



[CDC MPX Info](#)



[PADOH MPX Info](#)



For More Info Call

1-877-PA-HEALTH
(1-877-724-3258)