



MEMO

To: All Providers

From: Russell Olmsted, Director, Infection Prevention Management

Date: 5/23/2022

Re: CDC Health Alert - Monkeypox Virus Infection

Monkeypox Virus Infection in the United States and Other Non-endemic Countries: 2022, CDC Health Alert 5/20/2022

Background: A case of monkeypox (virus that is a member of Orthopoxvirus genus in the family Poxviridae) has been identified in a resident of MA and another is being investigated in a resident of NY. This is in addition to new detection of several other cases in other countries where infection is not endemic that have been identified since mid-May 2022.

Presentation: Monkeypox disease symptoms always involve the characteristic rash, regardless of whether there is disseminated rash. Historically, the rash has been preceded by a prodrome including fever, lymphadenopathy, and often other non-specific symptoms such as malaise, headache, and muscle aches. In the most recent reported cases, prodromal symptoms may not have always occurred; some recent cases have begun with characteristic, monkeypox-like lesions in the genital and perianal region, in the absence of subjective fever and other prodromal symptoms. For this reason, cases may be confused with more commonly seen infections (e.g., syphilis, chancroid, herpes, and varicella zoster).

Incubation period for symptom onset = 5–13 days.

Communicable period = onset of symptoms and is presumed to remain infectious until lesions have crusted

Isolation precautions = Contact & Droplet precautions. If needing inpatient care admit to an airborne infection isolation room if available, otherwise a private room.

CDC recommendations for Providers:

- Consider monkeypox in a patient with a rash that is consistent with monkeypox, especially those with a recent travel history to a country where monkeypox has been reported. Particularly for the following groups: i)men who report sexual contact with other men and who present with lesions in the genital/perianal area, ii)people reporting a significant travel history in the month before illness onset or iii)people reporting contact with people who have a similar rash or have received a diagnosis of suspected or confirmed monkeypox.
- Consult their state health department and or local public health if a case of monkeypox is suspected; if the health department cannot be reached, CDC can be contacted through the CDC Emergency Operations Center (770-488-7100) as soon as monkeypox is suspected.

Additional details are available at:

[HAN Archive - 00466](#) | [Health Alert Network \(HAN\) \(cdc.gov\)](#)
[About Monkeypox](#) | [Monkeypox](#) | [Poxvirus](#) | [CDC](#)