

MONKEYPOX

WHAT IS MONKEYPOX?

Monkeypox is a rare viral disease that is found mostly in the rainforest countries of Central and West Africa. The *Monkeypox virus* has been found in squirrels, mice, rats, rabbits, and prairie dogs. Its first appearance in the United States occurred in June 2003 in prairie dogs and humans. Monkeypox is very similar to smallpox.

TREATMENT

Antibiotics are used to treat people who have Monkeypox. Antibiotics are also given to people who have close contact with the infected person. It is recommended that the infected person gets plenty of rest and drinks plenty of fluids. Those suffering from severe cases of Monkeypox usually are hospitalized and receive special treatments to relieve the coughing.



Monkeypox lesions on the hand and leg of a female child.

Photo Courtesy
Public Health Image Library

SYMPTOMS

People usually do not experience any symptoms until about 12 days after a person is infected. The first symptoms of Monkeypox are very similar to those of smallpox. The difference is that with Monkeypox, people usually experience swelling of the lymph nodes. Other symptoms include a fever, headache, muscle aches, backache, a general feeling of discomfort, and exhaustion. After one to three days after the onset of fever, the patient develops a papular rash, which often occurs on the face first. The lesions usually develop through several stages before crusting and falling off.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **How can I prevent myself from getting Monkeypox?**
There is currently not a vaccine available for Monkeypox. If you notice that an animal that has a fever, cough, swollen lymph glands, and a rash, isolate the animal immediately. Contact your local or state health department for assistance.
- **How long does Monkeypox last?**
The illness typically lasts for two to four weeks.
- **Can I die from Monkeypox?**
Monkeypox can be fatal, but death seldom occurs. There is a 10% death rate in Africa.
- **I received the Smallpox vaccine, does that mean I'm protected from Monkeypox?**
The smallpox vaccine has been known to have a protective effect against Monkeypox. It does not provide complete protection though.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Department of State Health Services
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
<http://www.cdc.gov>