



# PUBLIC FACT SHEET

## MONKEYPOX

### What is monkeypox?

Monkeypox is a rare viral disease that occurs mainly in the rainforest countries of central and western Africa. The disease occurs mainly in monkeys, mice, rats and rabbits. It was reported in humans in 1970 for the first time. In June 2003 monkeypox was reported in prairie dogs and humans in the United States.

### How is monkeypox spread?

Monkeypox may be spread through the following ways:

- Monkeypox is most commonly spread from an infected animal by a bite or direct contact with an animal's open sore, or by contact with body fluids from an animal.
- The disease may be spread from person to person through airborne droplets by coughing or sneezing, or by direct contact with body fluids of an infected person.

### What are possible symptoms?

Symptoms may include:

- Swollen glands
- Fever
- A rash consisting of raised bumps may appear 1-3 days after the fever
- The rash usually begins on the face, forms a crust, and later falls off
- Headache
- Muscle and back aches
- Tiredness and general discomfort
- The illness generally lasts 2-4 weeks.

### How is monkeypox diagnosed?

By laboratory tests

### What is the treatment for monkeypox?

There is no specific treatment for monkeypox. Smallpox vaccine has been shown to reduce the risk of monkeypox.

### For more information on monkeypox:

Ottawa County Health Department

[www.miOttawa.org](http://www.miOttawa.org)

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/monkeypox/factsheet2.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/monkeypox/qa.htm>

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