

MONKEYPOX: WHEN TO TEST



Monkeypox is a rare viral disease not often seen in the United States. Anyone can get monkeypox. Most people recover in 2–4 weeks, but the disease can be serious, especially for children, people who are immunocompromised or people who are pregnant.

Monkeypox Symptoms

Symptoms of monkeypox can include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle aches and backache
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Chills
- Exhaustion
- Respiratory symptoms (e.g. sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough)
- A rash that can look like pimples or blisters that appears on the face, inside the mouth, and on other parts of the body, like the hands, feet, chest, genitals, or anus.



The rash goes through different stages before healing completely. Sometimes, people get a rash first, followed by other symptoms. Others only experience a rash.

Symptoms usually appear one to two weeks after infection.

Social History

- ☐ Did the individual have close or intimate in-person contact with someone diagnosed with monkeypox, or with someone with a rash?
- ☐ Did the individual travel to a location with known monkeypox transmission?
- ☐ Did the individual have contact with a dead or live wild animal or exotic pet that is an endemic species for monkeypox?
- ☐ Is the individual considered to be at higher risk, such as, persons less than 30 years of age, history of a sexually transmitted infection in the past year, or HIV positive?

Individuals who have a new or unexplained rash, should get evaluated and tested for monkeypox.

Providers should have a high level of suspicion if patients present with a rash, especially if they also report recent sexual or close contact with a possible case.

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Individuals are also recommended to get tested for Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, Herpes, and HIV.