

Awareness guide for Monkeypox

August 2022



What is Monkeypox?

- It is a rare zoonotic disease that is caused by infection with the monkeypox virus.
- It occurs primarily in tropical rainforest areas of Africa and is occasionally exported to other regions.

| **Mode of transmission:**

Animal-to-human:

- Through direct contact with the blood, bodily fluids, cutaneous or mucosal lesions of an infected animal.
- Eating insufficiently cooked meat from an infected animal.

Human-to-human: (Rare)

- Through close contact with respiratory secretions, skin lesions of an infected person or contaminated objects.
- Through intimate contact with someone who has symptoms.



Incubation period

The interval from infection to onset of symptoms is usually:

From 5 to 21 days.

| Signs and symptoms:



Lymphadenopathy



Severe headache



Fever



Skin rash which usually begins within 1 - 3 days of fever



Exhaustion



Back and muscle aches

| Stages of development of the rash:

- Macules (lesions with a flat base)
- Papules (slightly raised firm lesions)
- Vesicles (lesions filled with clear fluid)
- Pustules (lesions filled with yellowish fluid)
- Crusts which dry up and fall off



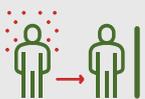
Prevention

Keep your hands clean by washing them for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitiser.



Preventing animal-to-human transmission:

- Avoid contact with wild animals (alive or dead).
- Cook meat properly.
- Avoid contact with any objects that have been in contact with a sick animal.



Preventing human-to-human transmission:

- Avoid contact with any person that has a rash.
- Avoid contact with any object that has been in contact with a sick person.



Treatment

- It is a self-limited disease with the symptoms lasting from 2 to 4 weeks.
- Supportive care and symptomatic treatment is the main way to deal with the disease.

| You need to know that:

- The health authorities in the UAE are currently studying and evaluating the situation.
- Avoid spreading rumours and ensure that you seek information from official channels.
- The risk of getting infected or the risk of an outbreak is minimal as transmission requires close contact with the infected person or the person's contaminated objects.

| What is the approved laboratory test for monkeypox?

Using PCR

- Throat Swab.
- Lesion specimen or scrape the skin for vesicles fluid using a dry swab.



Who is considered to be a confirmed case?

Any individual with the disease who has clinical symptoms and the virus detection is confirmed by a laboratory test.

| Confirmed case journey:



The patient must isolate himself in a separate room until he or she is informed of the result of the positive PCR test.



DHA will contact the patient to complete the isolation procedures.



If the symptoms worsen, the patient must go to the nearest medical centre or hospital.



The patient must remain in isolation either at home or in the institutional isolation facility for the period of 21 days.



What does isolation mean?

It is to isolate people with monkeypox disease to ensure that the disease does not spread and that they have access to the necessary health care.

Home Isolation:

Patient home isolation criteria:

- Patient must be in a stable condition with facilities such as a well-ventilated room at home. The patient will receive medical follow-up.
- A healthy adult patient who is able to isolate himself at home with or without a mild rash and has stable vital signs.

What are the requirements and conditions of home isolation?

- The individual should be in a stable health condition.
- Presence of a separate well-ventilated room and washroom.
- Presence of a first-aid kit and body thermometer.
- Have knowledge on how to properly treat contaminated equipment and waste.
- Follow hand washing and hygiene protocols to avoid transmission of the virus.

Institutional Isolation or Hospitals:

- An adult patient that is healthy and stable but cannot isolate himself at home.
- The condition and place of isolation of the patient are assessed by the medical team supervising the treatment.

When does the Isolation period end?

- After full recovery and disappearance of skin lesions and after 21 days.

Remember that this disease is self-limited and symptoms last from 2-4 weeks.



Frequently Asked Questions



Who is considered a monkeypox close contact?

A person who has been in close contact for a long period of time with a confirmed case of monkeypox or has been in close contact with an infected animal.

The Dubai Health Authority will contact and inform the individual that he is a close contact.



Is quarantine required for close contact with positive cases of monkeypox?

Close contacts of Monkeypox positive cases do not need to quarantine or take a test unless they develop symptoms. It's advisable to keep monitoring themselves and if any symptoms appear they should go to the nearest health centre or hospital. Remember to follow all precautionary measures, not to contact others, wash your hands regularly or sanitize them and wear covered clothes.



Frequently Asked Questions



If a symptom appears after being a close contact to a positive case, what is the next step?

- Go to the nearest health centre.
- Before leaving the house for the appointment, you must follow all precautionary measures. Make sure you do not come into contact with others and wash your hands and sanitise them regularly.
- Make sure you wear covered clothes such as long sleeves, pants and gloves to avoid and reduce contamination.



If I had chickenpox when I was young, is there a chance of getting monkeypox?

- There is a difference between chickenpox and monkeypox.
- Having chickenpox does not give you immunity against the monkeypox virus.



Frequently Asked Questions



Is there any medication I can take to protect myself from getting infected?

- There is no specific medication or vitamins that you should take to protect yourself from contracting the virus.
- It is recommended to follow preventive and safety measures, in addition to following a healthy lifestyle and diet, and drinking sufficient amounts of water.



Does a rash develop in every case of monkeypox? If yes, will the rash disappear completely or will it leave marks?

A rash is one of the main symptoms of monkeypox. The shape of the rash changes throughout the course of the disease until it reduces and disappears. The skin cells get renewed again. The disease may leave marks on the skin.



If a person suspects he has monkeypox which health facility should he go to? Is there any specific health centre or hospital one should go to?

Please refer to the nearest health centre or hospital.



Frequently Asked Questions



Which groups are at a higher risk of contracting the monkeypox infection? What is the probability of contracting the disease from humans?

- Healthcare workers.
- Persons in close contact with positive cases, and those who are in charge of taking care of the patients.
- **Human-to-human transmission** is relatively rare since transmission requires respiratory secretions or skin lesions of an infected person or contaminated objects.



What is the severity of the disease and the impact on the health of the individual?

- The risk of infection or disease outbreak is small, as it requires a very close contact with an infected person or the infected person's contaminated objects.
- The disease is self-limiting, with symptoms lasting from 2 to 4 weeks.
- Supportive care and symptomatic treatment is the main way to deal with the disease.
- Health authorities in the United Arab Emirates are currently studying and evaluating the situation.



What's the difference between Monkeypox and Chickenpox

Virus	Monkeypox	Chickenpox
Virus type	Monkeypox virus	Varicella-zoster virus
 Fever	1-3 days before rash	1-2 days before rash
 Rash appearance	The rash typically starts on the face and then spreads to the arms and legs (extremities). It also spreads to other parts of the body including the palms, soles, oral mucous membranes, conjunctivae and cornea.	The rash may first show up on the chest, back and face. It then spreads over the entire body, including inside the mouth and eyelids.
 Rash distribution	Concentrated on the face and extremities.	Concentrated on the trunk
 Presence of swollen lymph nodes	Yes	No
 Incubation period	5-21 days	10-21 days
 Length of illness	2-4 weeks	4-7 days
 Mode of transmission	Infected animal-to-human or human-to-human	Human-to-human
 Infectivity	Limited spread between human-to-human	Contagious