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HEALTH ADVISORY: MONKEYPOX CASES IN NON-HEALTHCARE CONGREGATE SETTINGS

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What is Monkeypox?

Monkeypox is a rare disease that is caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. Monkeypox can cause flu-like symptoms and a rash. In some cases, the rash may start first followed by other symptoms, while others only experience a rash. Human-to-human contact is the main form of transmission of monkeypox virus by direct contact with lesions, infected body fluids, or from respiratory secretions during prolonged face-to-face contact. A person is considered infectious until all scabs separate and a fresh layer of skin is formed.

Non-healthcare congregate settings are defined as facilities, or other housing, where people who are not related reside or are located in proximity to one another and share at least one common room (e.g., sleeping room, kitchen, bathroom, living room). Congregate settings can include correctional and detention facilities, homeless shelters, adult care facilities, group homes, dormitories at institutes of higher education, seasonal worker housing, residential supportive housing, and other similar settings as determined by licensing and/or regulating agencies. If healthcare services are provided on site, healthcare personnel should follow recommendations in <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/infection-control-healthcare.html>

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has also issued general guidance about monkeypox which can be found here:

https://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/monkeypox/docs/2022-07-08_han.pdf

What actions to take if a case has been identified? Facilities and provider agencies should:

- **Communicate** with staff, volunteers, and individuals about how to prevent and protect themselves against the virus. Include clear information about transmission via close physical contact and sexual contact. Try to keep all messaging fact-based in order to avoid stigma.
- **Respond** to reported cases in your facility appropriately. When responding to reported cases in your facility, consider the following actions:
 - Individuals, residents, staff, and volunteers suspected of monkeypox should be medically evaluated and tested. Any individual who is identified as positive for monkeypox should be informed on how to isolate until they are no longer infectious. Consult with your local or state health department regarding

discontinuation of isolation prior to returning to work, group or congregate setting activities.

- Staff should refrain from reporting to work if suspected of monkeypox until medically evaluated **and** test results are received.
- Ensure isolation spaces have a door that can be shut and a private bathroom. Multiple individuals who test positive for monkeypox may stay in the same room.
- If a separate bathroom is not available, surfaces such as counters, toilet seats, faucets, should be cleaned and disinfected using an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered disinfectant (such as [List Q](#)) after use of a shared space. This may include during activities like showering, using the toilet, or changing bandages that cover the rash. Consider disposable glove use while cleaning.
- Ensure all PPE and waste from isolation areas is disposed of properly. Facilities should also comply with [state and local regulations](#) for handling, storage, treatment, and disposal of waste.
- **Identify** individuals who may have been exposed to monkeypox by taking the following actions:
 - Work with your state or local health department to identify and monitor staff, volunteers, and other individuals or residents who may have had close contact with someone who has monkeypox.
 - Use [exposure risk assessment recommendations](#) (monitoring persons exposed to the virus) and contact tracing where it is feasible.
- **Ensure access** to handwashing
 - Soap and water or hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol should be available at all times at no cost.
 - Anyone who has come into contact with lesions, or clothing, linens, and/or surfaces that may have been in contact with lesions should wash their hands immediately.
- **Clean and disinfect** common areas
 - Comply with state and local regulations for cleaning and disinfection
 - Avoid activities such as vacuuming, dry dusting, and sweeping. Wet cleaning methods using liquid/wet wipe products should be used.
 - Standard cleaning and disinfection procedures should be performed using an EPA and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) registered hospital-grade disinfectant with an emerging viral pathogen claim. Products with Emerging Viral Pathogens claims may be found on EPA's List Q. Follow the manufacturer's directions for concentration, contact time, and care and handling.
- **Provide** all appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff, volunteers, individuals, and residents.
 - PPE, including gowns, gloves, eye-protection, and respirators (KN95, N95, or higher) should be worn when entering isolation areas.
 - Soiled laundry from persons with known or suspected monkeypox infection should only be handled when wearing appropriate PPE.
 - Staff and volunteers should also wear proper PPE when cleaning and disinfecting areas where people with monkeypox spent time.
 - The following Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards can be referenced via the links below:
 - Bloodborne Pathogens ([29 CFR 1910.1030](#)).
 - PPE ([29 CFR 1910.132](#)).
 - Respiratory Protection ([29 CFR 1910.134](#)).

Where to find frequently updated Monkeypox information?

Please visit the NYSDOH monkeypox webpage, which is frequently being updated in real time as further information is relayed about monkeypox virus cases in NYS and NYC, and more information on testing, treatment, and vaccinations.

<https://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/monkeypox/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/specific-settings/congregate.html>



**Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Non-Healthcare Settings:
During and After Isolation for Monkeypox
July 25, 2022**

Background

Monkeypox is spread through close, physical contact between individuals. This includes:

- Direct contact with monkeypox sores or rashes on an individual who has monkeypox.
- Respiratory droplets or oral fluids from someone with monkeypox, particularly for those who have close contact with someone or are around them for a period of three hours or more.

It can also be spread through contact with porous surfaces or fabrics (e.g., upholstered furniture, clothing, bedding, towels) and non-porous surfaces and objects (including sex toys and paraphernalia) that have been used by someone with monkeypox.

Poxviruses have been shown to survive on non-porous and porous surfaces for 15 days, particularly when in dark, cool, and low humidity environments. Porous surfaces may harbor live virus longer than non-porous (plastic, metal, glass, etc.) surfaces. During the infectious period, it is important to limit direct contact with porous surfaces that cannot be laundered (e.g., mattresses, upholstered furniture, car seats). This can be accomplished by placing a cover over the surface (e.g., coversheets, waterproof mattress covers, blankets, disposable mattress liners) that can then be removed and laundered or discarded. Steam cleaning the porous surface can also be considered.

Although poxviruses can survive on surfaces, they are sensitive to many disinfectants. This document provides guidance for cleaning and disinfection while an individual is isolating during the infectious period. If possible, cleaning and disinfection should be performed by the individual who is isolating.

Use of Personal Protective Equipment

- If cleaning and disinfection is done by someone other than the individual with monkeypox, they should wear clothing that fully covers the skin, disposable medical gloves, and a respirator or well-fitting mask.
 - Additional personal protective equipment (PPE) may be needed depending on the cleaning/disinfection products used. Follow product label instructions for proper use and handling including use of PPE.
- All clothing worn during cleaning should be immediately laundered.

- After removing PPE, perform hand hygiene using soap and water. Consider using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol after washing hands with soap and water.

Step 1: Collect and Contain Waste

- **When possible, the person with monkeypox should use a dedicated and lined trash can in the area where they are isolating.**
- Collect and contain in a sealed bag any soiled waste such as bandages, paper towels, food packaging, and other general trash items.

Step 2: Launder Linens and Clothing

- When possible, the person with monkeypox should handle and launder their own soiled laundry.
- Gather all potentially contaminated clothing, bedding, towels, and surface coverings into a plastic garbage bag or launderable fabric bag before cleaning and disinfecting the rest of the room.
- Do not shake the clothing or linens as this could spread infectious particles.
- Items should not be mixed with laundry from other individuals.
- Wash and dry with the warmest temperatures recommended on the fabric label and follow detergent label and instructions for use. Discard plastic garbage bags that were used to contain soiled laundry. If in-home laundry facilities (not shared with other households) are not available, contact your local health department to determine appropriate laundering options.
- Perform hand hygiene using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol after handling soiled laundry.

Step 3: Clean Before Using Disinfectants

- Soiled areas must first be cleaned to ensure the effectiveness of the disinfectant product. Clean surfaces using water and soap or detergent to reduce soil and debris.
- Do not dry dust or sweep surfaces to avoid spreading infectious particles. Instead, use wet cleaning methods.
- Always follow the cleaning and disinfection product label instructions for safe and effective use.

Step 4: Disinfection of Non-Porous (Hard) Surfaces and Objects

- Examples of non-porous surfaces and objects include tables, countertops, door handles, toilet flush handles, faucets, light switches, and sex toys/paraphernalia.
- Disinfectants used in NYS must be registered with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). There are currently no disinfectants registered for use against monkeypox. The U.S. EPA expects products on its List of Disinfectants for Emerging Viral Pathogens (List Q) to kill monkeypox when used

according to the label directions. Products that are registered for use in New York State that have been included on U.S. EPA's List Q can be found at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/nyspad/?0>. Instructions for identifying these products is also included at this link.

- Follow label instructions when using disinfectants to ensure the target virus is effectively killed on the type of surface you are treating. Pay attention to the contact time disinfectants should be left on surfaces to be effective (including disinfecting wipes). Carefully follow instructions for the dilution of concentrated products to ensure effective use.
- Disinfectant products can only be applied using a labeled application method.
- Use products in well ventilated areas.
- Do not mix disinfecting products. Mixing different products can produce toxic fumes.
 - Follow manufacturer instructions for cleaning and disinfecting personal sex toys, apparatuses, or appliances between uses including before and after use with any sexual partner(s).

Step 5: Porous (Soft) Surfaces, Carpets, and Upholstery

- Individuals who are isolating should limit direct contact with soft and porous surfaces that cannot be laundered during the infectious period. This can be done by placing a cover over the surface that can then be removed and laundered or discarded.
- Steam cleaning may be considered if excessive contamination of porous surfaces has occurred.

Step 6: Disposal of Waste

- Place all used PPE and other disposable items in a bag that can be tied closed before disposal with other waste.
- The individual handling the waste should wear disposable gloves and perform hand hygiene after disposing of waste.
- Professional cleaning services should treat and/or dispose of waste according to federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Additional Information:

New York State Department of Health's Monkeypox Webpage:
<https://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/monkeypox/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Monkeypox Webpage:
<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html>

U.S. Department of Transportation Planning Guidance for Handling Category A Solid Waste
<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/transporting-infectious-substances/planning-guidance-handling-category-solid-waste>