

# WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MPOX IN MISSOURI

Mpox is a rare disease caused by the mpox virus. It's usually found outside the United States; however, multiple cases of mpox have recently been reported in Missouri.

## How is mpox spread?

Mpox can spread when a person has close contact with a person infected with mpox virus or when a person comes in contact with materials (e.g., bedding, towels) that are contaminated with the virus.

## The mpox virus can spread by:

- Touching mpox lesions on a person's skin.
- Touching contaminated objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, towels) and surfaces that have been in contact with someone with mpox.
- Coming into contact with respiratory droplets or secretions from the eyes, nose and mouth from a person with mpox.

## To prevent the spread of the mpox virus, persons should avoid:

- Oral, anal and vaginal sex, or touching the genitals or anus of someone with mpox.
- Hugging, massaging, kissing or talking closely with someone with mpox.
- Touching shared fabrics, shared surfaces and objects (e.g. sex toys) used by someone with mpox.



If you do come in contact with an infected person or animals, wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

## Signs of Mpox



Fever and Headache



Chills



Muscle Aches



Swollen Lymph Nodes



Rash, Bumps or Blisters

## Treatment and Vaccination:

At this time, there are no specific approved treatments for mpox infections. However, medication, such as antivirals, may be used to ease the symptoms of illness. In some cases, vaccine can be given to prevent the disease after exposure to the mpox virus. Please discuss available treatment options with your healthcare provider.



IF YOU THINK YOU MAY HAVE MPOX, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A PROVIDER OR HEALTH INSURANCE, CALL 2-1-1 OR VISIT A PUBLIC HEALTH SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC NEAR YOU.



Scan to locate a STD/HIV Testing Site near you or visit [Health.Mo.Gov/testing](https://www.health.mo.gov/testing).