WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MONKEYPOX IN MISSOURI

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

How is monkeypox spread?
Monkeypox can spread when a person has close contact with a person infected with monkeypox virus or when a person comes in contact with materials (e.g., bedding, towels) that are contaminated with the virus.

The monkeypox virus can spread by:
- Touching monkeypox lesions on a person’s skin.
- Touching contaminated objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, towels) and surfaces that have been in contact with someone with monkeypox.
- Coming into contact with respiratory droplets or secretions from the eyes, nose and mouth from a person with monkeypox.

To prevent the spread of the monkeypox virus, persons should avoid:
- Oral, anal and vaginal sex, or touching the genitals or anus of someone with monkeypox.
- Hugging, massaging, kissing or talking closely with someone with monkeypox.
- Touching shared fabrics, shared surfaces and objects (e.g. sex toys) used by someone with monkeypox.
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 Monkeypox**

- 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 monkeypox 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 monkeypox virus. Please discuss available treatment options with your healthcare provider.

**IF YOU THINK YOU MAY HAVE MONKEYPOX,** 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.