



Signs and Symptoms

Updated August 5, 2022

Monkeypox symptoms

People with monkeypox get a rash that may be located on or near the genitals (penis, testicles, labia, and vagina) or anus (butthole) and could be on other areas like the hands, feet, chest, face, or mouth.

- The rash will go through several stages, including scabs, before healing.
- The rash can initially look like pimples or blisters and may be painful or itchy.

Other symptoms of monkeypox can include:

- Fever
- Chills
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Exhaustion
- Muscle aches and backache
- Headache
- Respiratory symptoms (e.g. sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough)

You may experience all or only a few symptoms

- Sometimes, people have flu-like symptoms before the rash.
- Some people get a rash first, followed by other symptoms.
- Others only experience a rash.

How long do monkeypox symptoms last?

Monkeypox symptoms usually start within 3 weeks of exposure to the virus. If someone has flu-like symptoms, they will usually develop a rash 1-4 days later.

Monkeypox can be spread from the time symptoms start until the rash has healed, all scabs have fallen off, and a fresh layer of skin has formed. The illness typically lasts 2-4 weeks.

If You Have a New or Unexplained Rash or Other Symptoms...

- Avoid close contact, including sex or being intimate with anyone, until you have been checked out by a healthcare provider.
- If you don't have a provider or health insurance, visit a public health clinic near you.
- When you see a healthcare provider, wear a mask, and remind them that this virus is circulating in the area.



Monkeypox Rash Photos



Photo credit: UK Health Security Agency



Photo credit: UK Health Security Agency



Photo credit: UK Health Security Agency



Photo credit: UK Health Security Agency



Photo credit: UK Health Security Agency



Photo credit: UK Health Security Agency



Photo Credit: NHS England High Consequence Infectious Diseases Network





Photo Credit: NHS England High Consequence Infectious Diseases Network



Photo Credit: NHS England High Consequence Infectious Diseases Network



Photo Credit: NHS England High Consequence Infectious Diseases Network

Related Pages

- › [Prevention](#)
- › [Treatment](#)
- › [How It Spreads](#)
- › [2022 U.S. Monkeypox Outbreak](#)