



OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

St. Clair County Health Department

2022

SCCHD-04

ISSUE DATE: 06/13/22

TO: St. Clair County Healthcare Providers, Hospital ICPs, Emergency Departments, Clinicians, OB/GYNs, Neurologists, ENT's

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HEALTH ADVISORY: MONKEY POX

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) are urging healthcare providers to be alert for patients having rash illnesses consistent with monkeypox. As of June 13th, there have been **65 identified cases** of monkeypox in the United States. For the most up-to-date information and healthcare provider guidance go to <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/>.

The incubation period for monkeypox is usually 7–14 days but can range from 5–21 days.

The illness begins with:

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Backache
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Chills
- Exhaustion

Within 1 to 3 days after the onset of fever, the patient develops a rash, often beginning on the face then spreading to other parts of the body. The rash can be disseminated. Some recent cases have begun atypically, with lesions in the genital and perianal region and without fever or other prodromal symptoms. For this reason, cases might be confused with more commonly seen infections such as varicella zoster or sexually transmitted infections (STIs) (e.g., genital herpes or syphilis). Clinicians should therefore have monkeypox on their differential diagnosis when presented with an STI-associated or STI-like rash, even if it is localized and not yet diffuse.

Lesions progress through the following stages before falling off:

- Macules
- Papules
- Vesicles
- Pustules
- Scabs

Persons are considered infectious from the onset of illness until all lesions have crusted over, those crusts have separated, and a fresh layer of healthy skin has formed under the crust (typically 2–4 weeks). Clinicians should be alert to patients presenting with a new rash or if the patient meets epidemiologic criteria and there is a high clinical suspicion for monkeypox.

Contact SCCHD with questions or to report suspect cases (810) 987-5300 during regular business hours. Refer to the “After Hours Emergency Contact List” or www.scchealth.co for after-hours contact.