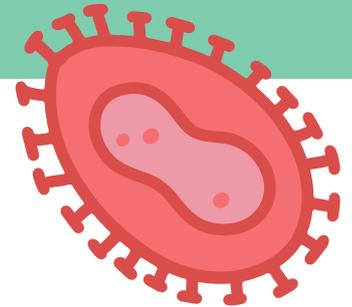


MPOX

PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN PEOPLE VISITING PRISON



Mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) caused by the monkeypox virus. A multi-country outbreak observed since May 2022 has led WHO to declare it a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.



People in prison should enjoy quality health care that is at least equivalent to that available in the community and should have access to necessary health-care services free of charge without discrimination on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity/expression, legal status, or any status.

WHAT ARE THE **SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS** OF MPOX?

As described in WHO guidance¹, infection with mpox may be without symptoms or with some or all of the following symptoms:



FEVER



RASH
(all over the body or in one or few parts of the body, including genitals)



SWOLLEN LYMPH NODES



HEADACHE



MUSCLE ACHE



BACK PAIN



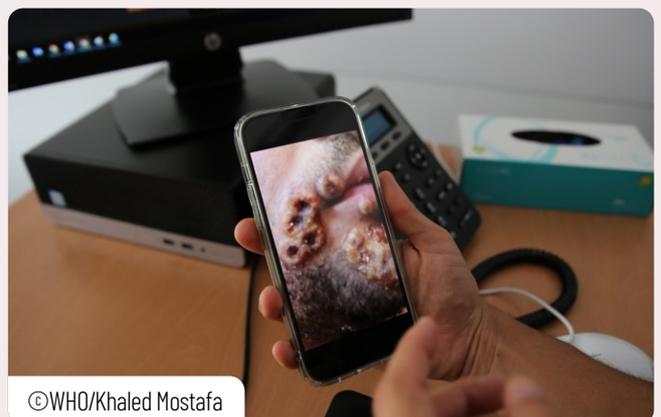
TIREDDNESS



PAIN AROUND THE GENITALS OR THE ANUS



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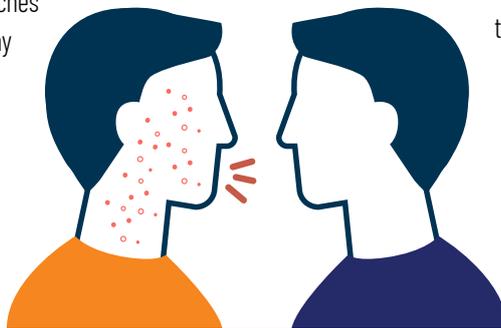
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After a person is exposed to someone with mpox, they could develop symptoms up to 21 days later.

HOW DOES MONKEYPOX VIRUS SPREAD?

Monkeypox virus can be passed from one person to another through close contact with the other people who have mpx. Close contact can mean being face-to-face (such as talking, breathing or singing close to one another which can generate droplets or short-range aerosols); skin-to-skin (such as touching or vaginal/anal sex); mouth-to-mouth (such as kissing); or mouth-to-skin contact (such as oral sex or kissing the skin). The current outbreak in the WHO European Region, has been driven by transmission during sex, cases have been mostly – but not exclusively – reported among men who have sex with men.

Monkeypox virus can also spread in other ways. For example, environments can become contaminated with the monkeypox virus: i.e., when an infectious person touches clothing, bedding, towels, objects, electronics and surfaces. Someone else who touches these items may become infected if they have any cuts or abrasions or they accidentally touch their eyes, nose, mouth or other mucous membranes. This is known as fomite transmission. Cleaning your hands after touching objects that may be contaminated can help prevent this type of transmission. It is also possible to become



infected from breathing in skin flakes or virus from clothing, bedding or towels. In the current outbreak, experts are still trying to understand whether this mode of transmission plays a major role via contaminated materials such as clothing, towels, bedding, surfaces and objects.

During the current outbreak in Europe, there have been cases where mpx has been transmitted through contaminated needle-stick injuries, both in health care settings and in tattoo parlors. Monkeypox virus can spread from the moment symptoms appear until the blister-like lesions have fully healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed underneath. The illness usually self-limiting after 2-4 weeks but patients do sometimes require support to help manage the pain caused, or the more severe complications of the disease. In some people, the infection can lead to medical complications and even death. Based on evidence from previous mpx outbreaks and from the ongoing outbreak, new-born babies, children and people with underlying immune deficiencies (especially individuals with poorly managed HIV) are at higher risk of severe mpx disease.

THE ILLNESS IS USUALLY SELF-LIMITING AFTER **2-4 WEEKS.**

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS



Prison settings are high risk environments for the spread of infectious diseases, including mpx.

- ▶ Play your part in preventing entry and spread of viruses among people in prison by knowing the signs and symptoms and regularly check yourself.
- ▶ Regularly wash your hands for at least 40 seconds with soap and water.
- ▶ Postpone your visit if you feel unwell, have a rash, or had contact with a known case of mpx.
- ▶ Pregnant women, children and babies should avoid visiting or having close contact with someone who has symptoms or confirmed mpx.
- ▶ Seek medical assistance if you have a rash, lesions, fever or think you may have mpx.
- ▶ If you have mpx, you need to isolate and follow the advice of your healthcare provider.
- ▶ While you are unable to visit prison, you may ask the prison administration about alternative means of contact that are available to keep social and family relationships for those you love.
- ▶ In case the prison allows for intimate visits, practice safe sex, including the use of condoms and dental dams, if available.

¹Surveillance, case investigation and contact tracing for monkeypox. Interim Guidance, 25 August. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022 (<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-MPX-Surveillance-2022.3>, accessed 25 November 2022).