

BACKGROUNDER

June 29, 2022

Monkeypox virus

Symptoms

- fever
- headaches
- muscle aches
- exhaustion
- swollen lymph nodes
- rash or lesions that typically start on the face and spreads to other parts of the body

Following infection, the incubation period (number of days between exposure/infection and onset of symptoms) is normally six to 13 days but can range to as much as three weeks (21 days). Most people recover on their own without treatment.

Transmission

In general, monkeypox does not spread easily between individuals. When the virus does spread, it is through contact with bodily fluids such as fluids from the sores, contaminated clothing or bedding, or through respiratory droplets following prolonged face-to-face contact. Spread can also happen through bites or scratches from infected animals. Anyone who is infected can spread monkeypox through contact with bodily fluids, monkeypox sores, or by sharing contaminated items. Household disinfectants can kill the virus.

Close contact of an individual suspected or confirmed to have a monkeypox infection

Close contacts should self-monitor for symptoms for three weeks (21 days) after their most recent exposure. If symptoms develop, individuals should self-isolate, contact their local Public Health Unit, seek medical care from their general practitioner as soon as possible, and get tested.

Preventive measures to reduce the spread

Individuals can lower their risk of infection by maintaining physical distance, frequent and thorough washing of hands with soap and water, and wearing a well-fitting mask.

The Imvamune vaccine is approved in Canada for protection against monkeypox. Each eligible person receives one dose (0.5ml) of the vaccine. The vaccine contains

weakened virus and cannot make an individual sick.

The vaccine can be used for protection against monkeypox before getting exposed to the virus (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) or after being exposed (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis).

Anyone can get the monkeypox virus, but during this current outbreak, in a number of countries, gay, bisexual and men who have sex with men have been affected. Hamilton Public Health Services is following federal and provincial guidance on the administration of Imvamune vaccines to protect those most at risk of contracting the monkeypox virus.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Further information about the monkeypox virus can be found on the [Public Health Agency of Canada website](#).

MEDIA CONTACT

James Berry
Communications Officer, City of Hamilton
905-517-5786
James.Berry@hamilton.ca