



September 19, 2022

# Recommendations to Prevent Occupationally-acquired Monkeypox Infection in Healthcare Personnel

Currently, there are more than 61,000 reported cases of monkeypox infection [worldwide](#). Reports of occupationally-acquired monkeypox infection in healthcare personnel (HCP) remain rare in this outbreak, with most reports involving HCP sustaining a sharps injury during specimen collection or not using [recommended personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends HCP adhere to all [recommended infection prevention and control](#) measures including [recommended PPE](#) to reduce the risk of monkeypox virus transmission in healthcare settings.

## Infection Prevention and Control

- Establish a process to screen patients for [signs and symptoms of monkeypox](#) at or before arrival so that they can be identified promptly in healthcare facilities (e.g., urgent care clinics, emergency departments, clinics providing evaluation for sexually transmitted infections) that are most likely to provide initial evaluation of patients with monkeypox.
- Dedicate adequate resources to support infection prevention practices, including access to all [recommended PPE](#), particularly in outpatient settings, where monkeypox patients are frequently initially evaluated.
- Review infection prevention and control practices including carefully putting on and taking off PPE to ensure HCP are properly trained and provided the opportunity to ask questions and practice their technique.

## Cleaning and Disinfection

- Review [cleaning and disinfection practices](#) to ensure they are being completed effectively. Cleaning and disinfecting rooms and equipment between patients is important to prevent transmission to others.

## Safe Specimen Collection

- Use methods to [safely collect monkeypox specimens](#). Unroofing or aspiration of lesions during specimen collection or using sharp instruments for monkeypox lesion testing is not necessary or recommended due to the risk for sharps injury.

## Healthcare Provider Exposures

- Know the [signs and symptoms of monkeypox](#).

- Do not report to work if any signs or symptoms develop, even in the absence of recognized exposure.
- Leave work if signs or symptoms develop while at work, and notify supervisor or other appropriate group (e.g., occupational health services) for further evaluation.
- Healthcare facilities should provide flexible, non-punitive sick leave policies to allow HCP to take leave when indicated.

### Additional Resources

- [Infection Control: Healthcare Settings | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#)
- [Health Care Personnel Exposures to Subsequently Laboratory-Confirmed Monkeypox Patients — Colorado, 2022 | MMWR \(cdc.gov\)](#)

**The Emergency Risk Communication Branch in the Division of Emergency Operations, Center for Preparedness and Response is responsible for the management of all COCA Products.**

For information about this update or other clinical issues, or to send your feedback, please contact us at [coca@cdc.gov](mailto:coca@cdc.gov)  
[CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity Facebook page](#)—connect with COCA on Facebook  
[Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity](#)—resources for healthcare providers  
[COCA RSS Feed](#)—subscribe to be notified of conference calls, updates, and CDC guidance for health providers  
[Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication Training](#)—training program that draws from lessons learned during public health emergencies, and incorporates best practices from the fields of risk and crisis communication  
[Health Alert Network](#)—CDC's primary method of sharing cleared information about urgent public health incidents with public information officers; federal, state, territorial, and local public health practitioners; clinicians; and public health laboratories



CDC and HHS logos are the exclusive property of the Department of Health and Human Services and may not be used for any purpose without prior express written permission. Use of trade names and commercial sources is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Links to non-federal organizations are provided solely as a service to our users. Links do not constitute an endorsement of any organization by CDC or the federal government, and none should be inferred. CDC is not responsible for the content of the individual organizations.



## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1600 Clifton Rd Atlanta, GA 30329 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) TTY: 888-232-6348

[Questions or Problems](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)