

**Virginia Department of Health:
What Homeless Shelters Need to Know about Monkeypox
July 26, 2022**

Strategy	What You Need to Know	How You Can Prepare or Help
Stay informed about monkeypox and the current outbreak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This outbreak is affecting many areas where monkeypox is not usually found. Virginia cases are increasing rapidly and more cases are expected. ● Monkeypox spreads from person to person through direct contact with sores, scabs, or body fluids; contact with contaminated items, like linens; and respiratory droplets during prolonged face-to-face contact. Monkeypox can spread during intimate contact, including sex. ● Anyone can get and spread monkeypox. Most cases are in men who self-identify as gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men (MSM). MSM with multiple sex partners are currently at greatest risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learn key concepts about monkeypox with VDH's Fact Sheet. ● Guidance is subject to change as we learn more; refer to the VDH website and CDC website for the most current information.
Rapidly identify and report suspected cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VDH's Monkeypox Information Sheet for Healthcare Providers provides key information, including when to suspect monkeypox. Localized rashes in the mouth or around the genitals or anus might be only symptom and can look like a sexually transmitted infection. ● Providers should immediately report suspected cases to their local health department (LHD). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Share resources with clinical staff. ● Know how to contact your LHD, including after hours. ● Report suspected cases with VDH's Morbidity Report.
Test to identify cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Testing is recommended for people with monkeypox symptoms; screening for symptoms upon client intake is recommended. ● VDH encourages using commercial lab testing whenever possible. ● Free testing at Virginia's Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services is available if criteria are met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a plan for medical evaluation, including testing, if monkeypox is suspected. ● Assess current supplies for testing. ● If staff or clients do not have a healthcare provider, then facilitate evaluation at a public health clinic (e.g., LHD, Federally Qualified Health Center, STI clinic).
Implement infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Personal protective equipment (PPE) is needed for healthcare providers caring for patients, staff handling laundry of patients, and staff cleaning patient areas. PPE means gown, gloves, eye protection, and NIOSH-approved respirator (healthcare providers) or well-fitting mask or respirator. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide training to staff about wearing PPE and other infection control precautions. ● Ensure access to PPE for healthcare providers and nonclinical staff (including environmental cleaning staff).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Healthcare facilities should follow infection control recommendations. ● Nonhealthcare facilities should follow cleaning and disinfection instructions and guidance for congregate settings. Pay particular attention to handling laundry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure access to handwashing supplies, cleaning supplies, and disinfectants.
Isolate people with monkeypox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● People with monkeypox are contagious from when symptoms start until all sores have healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed. This can take 2–4 weeks. ● People with monkeypox should isolate in a private room. If a private room is not available, cohorting with other people with monkeypox is acceptable. ● If leaving the isolation room or when separating from others is not possible, people with monkeypox should wear a well-fitting face mask, cover areas where rash or sores are present, and wash their hands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a plan for where people with monkeypox will stay, how they will be cared for and monitored, and how they can work remotely if they are able. ● Provide VDH’s Handout for Patients with Monkeypox. ● For staff isolating at home, refer to CDC guidance.
Support contact tracing to identify and assess close contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● When a case is identified, the LHD conducts contact tracing to identify, assess, and monitor close contacts. ● Close contacts should monitor their health, but do <u>not</u> need to stay home (quarantine). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the LHD’s contact tracing efforts to help identify and monitor close contacts; encourage people to cooperate with the LHD. ● Provide VDH’s Handouts for Close Contacts.
Treat patients to minimize severe disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There are no specific treatments approved by FDA for monkeypox, but antivirals available through CDC (e.g., TPOXX) might help those at risk of severe illness. ● Healthcare providers can access treatment by coordinating with the LHD. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage patients to talk with their provider about treatment. ● Encourage providers to contact the LHD to access treatment.
Vaccinate close contacts and high-risk groups to prevent infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A 2-dose vaccine for postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) is available for known close contacts and, as supply allows, adults with a high risk of exposure. ● The vaccine works best the sooner it is given; ideally, the first dose is given within 4 days of exposure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage prompt uptake of vaccine if recommended by the LHD.
Communicate the facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communicate with staff and clients about monkeypox and how it spreads through close physical contact. ● Stigma is harmful. It can create lost opportunities to detect and address infections in other populations and provide a false sense of security. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Combat stigma by providing fact-based information and emphasizing. Refer to CDC’s Reducing Stigma website. ● Refer to VDH’s Communication Resources website.
Find more information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VDH Monkeypox website ● CDC’s Preventing Monkeypox Spread in Congregate Settings and CDC Monkeypox website 	