

STOP THE SPREAD OF MPX MISINFORMATION



ADDRESSING MISINFORMATION ABOUT MPX

Before sharing any information online related to MPX, check and verify the source. You should be cautious about the information that you read and share with others. The best place to find credible information is through your healthcare professional or credible sources such as RUHS-Public Health, CDPH, CDC, or WHO. With updates continuously happening, it can be easy to accidentally share incorrect information.

Are you feeling overwhelmed? Take a break from the news and social media. Put your phone down and do something that you enjoy. SAMHSA's Disaster Distress Helpline (DDH) provides 24/7, 365-day-a-year crisis counseling and support to people experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters including infectious disease outbreaks. Contact the DDH at **1-800-985-5990** or text **TalkWithUs** to **66746**.



ADDRESSING THE STIGMA

Skin Conditions: Many individuals with skin conditions have been ostracized because people mistakenly believed they had a contagious infection. It is important to understand that there are other health conditions, such as acne, keloids, psoriasis, or eczema that can cause bumps or rashes which are not contagious.

LGBTQ+: While currently there may be a higher number of cases noted within the LGBTQ+ community, MPX can affect anyone, regardless of gender, race, or sexual orientation. To learn more about what MPX may look like, you can visit the [CDC's website](https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/) to view images, signs, and symptoms.

It is important that we reduce the stigma so that all communities receive accurate information and practice safe measures to protect themselves and others.

CDPH: cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Monkeypox.aspx

CDC: cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox

WHO: who.int/health-topics/monkeypox/

MYTHS VS. FACTS

MYTH: MPX is a newly discovered virus.

FACT: According to CDC, MPX was discovered in 1958 in an animal reservoir. The first case of MPX in humans was recorded in 1970.

MYTH: MPX is a sexually transmitted infection (STI).

FACT: While MPX is not currently classified as an STI, it is transmitted through close physical contact, which can include sexual activity. MPX can also spread through other close physical contact such as hugging, kissing, and cuddling with someone with MPX.

MYTH: MPX is extremely contagious.

FACT: MPX is much less contagious than other similar viruses, such as smallpox. It is also less contagious than COVID-19, at least in part due to MPX spreading primarily through skin-to-skin contact.

MYTH: There are no treatments available for MPX.

FACT: There are no treatments approved specifically for MPX. However, the virus that causes MPX is similar to the virus that causes smallpox, so the antiviral medication approved for smallpox, tecovirimat (TPOXX), may be used for individuals who are at high risk of severe symptoms from MPX or who are experiencing severe disease from MPX. In addition, there are over-the-counter and prescription treatments that can help with the symptoms of MPX.

MYTH: There is no vaccine being used for the prevention of MPX.

FACT: The JYNNEOS vaccine is approved for prevention of smallpox, and since smallpox is similar to MPX, it is also the primary vaccine being used during this MPX outbreak in the U.S.

MYTH: I can't contract MPX at social gatherings or events like clubs or parties.

FACT: There is some risk of contracting MPX when people are gathering in close proximity to one another. A rave, party, or club where there is minimal clothing and where there is direct, personal, often skin-to-skin contact has some risk. Enclosed spaces, such as back rooms, saunas, sex clubs, or private and public sex parties where intimate, often anonymous sexual contact with multiple partners occurs, may have a higher likelihood of spreading monkeypox. At social gatherings where attendees are fully clothed (minimal skin exposure), there is generally a lower risk of MPX transmission.

MYTH: I can't contract MPX if I got the smallpox vaccine when I was a child.

FACT: Previous smallpox vaccination as a child probably provides some protection, but it may not be lifelong. During the current outbreak, vaccines should be given to eligible people, even if they were previously vaccinated against smallpox when they were a child.

For more information about MPX:

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 www.ruhealth.org/mpx