

# Mpox Virus



**Mpox is a rare but potentially serious disease that is caused by the mpox virus. Mpox virus is from the same family of viruses as the smallpox virus. Mpox symptoms are similar to smallpox symptoms, but are less severe. It is also less transmissible than smallpox, and rarely fatal. Mpox can spread from infected humans, animals, and materials contaminated with the virus. Mpox virus is characterized by a new unexplained rash and skin lesions.**



## What causes it?

- ▶ Mpox is caused by the mpox virus. It does not spread easily from person to person. People must have close, sustained contact with an infected person to get the virus.
- ▶ People may become infected with mpox:
  - ▶ By having direct contact with skin lesions or scabs of an infected person.
  - ▶ Through sharing items such as bedding or clothing of an infected person.
  - ▶ Through prolonged exposure to an infected person's respiratory secretions.
- ▶ Mpox can also be spread to people from animals through bites, scratches, preparation of meat, or use of a product from an infected animal.



## What are the signs and symptoms?

- ▶ Mpox is typically characterized by a new, unexplained rash that develops into hard, round, fluid or pus-filled lesions on skin or in the mouth. Other symptoms may include:
  - ▶ Fever
  - ▶ Swollen lymph nodes
  - ▶ Muscle aches
  - ▶ Headache
- ▶ The mpox rash usually develops within one to three days after fever. Some people may experience a rash or sores first, followed by other symptoms, or only develop a rash.



## What are the treatment options?

- ▶ Most people who have mpox do not need treatment and recover within two to four weeks. However, antiviral medications that have been used to treat smallpox can be used.
- ▶ People who have been exposed to someone with mpox may be eligible to receive a vaccine to prevent the onset of disease or reduce the severity of symptoms.



## How can it be prevented?

- ▶ If your partner has mpox, avoid sex or being intimate until all sores have healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed.
- ▶ If you were exposed to mpox, monitor for symptoms for 21 days after your date of last exposure.
- ▶ Do not handle or touch the bedding, towels, or clothing of a person with mpox.
- ▶ If symptoms begin, contact a doctor immediately and isolate away from others.

