

Monkeypox Virus (MPV) Guidance for K12 Schools

Monkeypox is a disease caused by the monkeypox virus (MPV) that can cause flu-like symptoms and [a rash that is often painful or itchy](#). A person is infectious until all rash lesions have scabbed over, the scabs have fallen off, and a fresh layer of skin has formed underneath.

MPV can be spread to anyone through:

- Close personal contact with a person who has MPV, including household contacts.
- Contact with respiratory secretions from a person who has MPV.
- Contact with items including fabrics or surfaces that were touched by a person who has MPV.

MPV has not been shown to spread by casually talking with or walking near a person who has MPV. MPV can be transmitted through sexual contact, however, sex is just one of the ways that MPV spreads.

Prompt identification of MPV is important. Persons exposed to someone with MPV can get vaccinated (post exposure prevention), and infected persons might be eligible for anti-viral treatments.

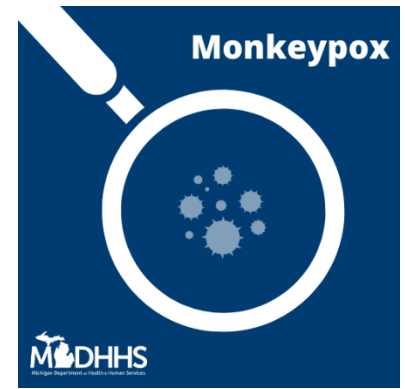
Routine Strategies for Preventing MPV Transmission in Schools

- **Take reports of MPV infection seriously** by exploring all potential cases immediately in conjunction with the [local health department](#) (LHD).
- **Require staff and students to stay home if ill** and maintain supportive sick leave protocols to encourage this. In addition to the rash, other symptoms of MPV may include fever, headache, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes, chills, exhaustion, and respiratory symptoms (e.g., sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough). Symptoms sometimes appear one to four days before the onset of the rash, but might not always be noted.
- **Be watchful** for new/unexplained vesicular or pustular skin lesions, or lesions filled with fluid or pus on students and staff.
- **Ensure access to handwashing.** Encourage good hand hygiene using soap and water, or hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, especially before eating and after using the restroom.
- **Limit sharing of personal items.** Do not share eating utensils or dishes. Do not share bedding, towels, or clothing.
- **Clean and disinfect.** Clean surfaces routinely to reduce the risk of spreading germs by touching surfaces. Adhere to all standard procedures for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfection in school and childcare settings, including after diapering, feeding, and exposure to bodily fluids.

Responding to a Case (Potential or Confirmed)

Promptly isolate a person suspected or confirmed to have MPV.

- Individuals who develop signs/symptoms of MPV during the school day should be isolated immediately in a separate space until they are able to be sent home safely.
- If MPV is suspected, do not touch the rash with bare hands and use common sense precautions such as hand-washing.



Contact the LHD. MPV is a reportable condition under the Michigan Public Health Code. The LHD has the authority to determine risk of exposure.

- Contact the LHD immediately to discuss any suspected or confirmed cases of MPV among school staff, volunteers, or students.
- The LHD will assist with confirming diagnosis, facilitating treatment, contact tracing, and getting vaccine for persons exposed to an MPV case.
- The LHD will conduct an assessment regarding risk of exposure within the school community.
- The LHD will also provide guidance on cleaning and disinfection in areas where a case of MPV was present.

Communicate with the school community. Provide factual information from reliable sources after consulting the LHD.

- Any disclosure regarding a specific exposure should be handled in a confidential manner and should be done only after consultation with the LHD.
- [Reduce stigma](#) when communicating about MPV.
- Emphasize that **anyone** can get MPV and explain why it should be a public health concern for all.
- Provide information about MPV symptoms and how it can spread.
- Encourage persons to seek medical evaluation (including testing) if symptoms develop.
- Provide information about [MPV vaccination](#) and [treatment](#).

Allowing an MPV case to return to school after recovering. Request a letter from the treating health care provider clearing the MPV case to return to school and ensure the LHD is in support of the plan.

Vaccinations and Treatment

Schools should be aware of the availability of vaccination for persons exposed to MPV and treatment options for an MPV case at high risk of severe disease. See [Michigan.gov/MPV](https://www.michigan.gov/MPV) for further information on the availability of [vaccines](#) and [therapeutics](#).

Resources

- [What You Need to Know about Monkeypox if You are a Teen or Young Adult](#).
- Updated information about MPV is available at [Michigan.gov/MPV](https://www.michigan.gov/MPV).

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