

# Monkeypox FAQ:

## Is there treatment for monkeypox?

Although there are no specific treatments for monkeypox, its genetic similarity to smallpox may allow antiviral drugs and vaccines that have been developed to protect against smallpox be used to prevent and treat monkeypox virus infections. However, a person must meet strict criteria to receive a vaccine such as being a close contact to someone who has tested positive for monkeypox.

## Is monkeypox life-threatening?

Fatalities or severe illness from monkeypox is rare in non-endemic countries, with most cases being mild.

## Who can get monkeypox?

Monkeypox is not found exclusively in one group of people. Anyone who has had close, physical contact such as kissing, sex, or other skin-to-skin contact with someone who has monkeypox or touching infected surfaces or material, can contract it.

## Who is at risk of severe outcomes from monkeypox?

Children < 8 years of age, individuals who are pregnant or immunocompromised, and individuals with a history of atopic dermatitis or eczema may be at increased risk.

## How can I avoid getting monkeypox?

Have a healthy dialogue with your sexual partner/s about any recent illnesses, sores, rashes, on your or your partner's body including the genitals and anus.

- Avoid close contact like kissing or sex with people who have rashes or sores.
- Avoid animals that may be infected or touching contaminated materials (bed linens, sex toys)
- Wash your hands consistently
- If you're caring for others who have monkeypox, use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and contain and dispose of contaminated waste.

