

Mpox (formerly known as human monkeypox virus or hMPXV) is a disease caused by the mpox virus. It is part of the same family as the virus that causes smallpox. Mpox is not new, but in 2022 it was found in countries that have not commonly reported the virus, including the U.S. and Canada.

## How it spreads

Mpox can spread to anyone through close, and often skin-to-skin, contact with someone who is infected. This includes:

- **Direct contact with a rash, sores, or scabs.** For example, during sexual, intimate, or other skin-to-skin contact.
- **Large respiratory fluids, like saliva (spit),** from close, face-to-face contact over a longer period of time. For example, when kissing, cuddling or living with someone with mpox.
- **Direct contact with materials that have touched body fluids or sores,** such as clothing or linens.

The virus can spread to others from the time symptoms start until all sores have healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed, which can take several weeks.

People infected with mpox should avoid contact with animals, including pets, livestock, and wildlife, because it can spread between animals and humans.

## Symptoms

The most common symptom is a rash, which might look like pimples, blisters or sores. Other symptoms might include fever, headache, muscle aches, backaches, swollen lymph nodes, chills or exhaustion before a rash.

Most people get better in two to four weeks without medical treatment. However, symptoms can be painful, and people might have permanent scarring from the rash.

## What Vermonters Can Do

- **Find out if you are eligible for vaccination** at [healthvermont.gov/mpox](https://healthvermont.gov/mpox).
- **If you have a rash or other symptoms of mpox,** even if you don't think you've had contact with someone who has it, talk to your health care provider and avoid contact with other people and animals. Call 2-1-1 if you need to be connected to care.
- **Understand that some situations are riskier than others.** For example, higher risk activities include sexual or intimate contact, or dancing in a crowded area with little clothing. It is very unlikely to get mpox from trying on clothes at a store, traveling in an airport, swimming in a public pool or shopping.



SCAN ME

Learn more at [HealthVermont.gov/mpox](https://HealthVermont.gov/mpox)