



Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

MARY T. BASSETT, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

KRISTIN M. PROUD
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

Friday, July 22, 2022
Dear Administrator Letter
Subject: Symptomatic/Asymptomatic
Guidance for HC Workers

Dear Chief Executive Officer/Administrator:

The New York State Department of Health continues to monitor the current monkeypox outbreak. The Department would like to remind healthcare facilities (HCF) to encourage staff not to report to work if they are exhibiting signs or symptoms of monkeypox.

The signs and symptoms of monkeypox can vary, but include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle aches and backache
- Exhaustion
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Chills
- Vesicular/pustular rash that appears on the face, inside the mouth, and on other body parts, like the hands, feet, chest, genitals, or anus.

Person-to-person transmission of monkeypox occurs through:

- direct contact with the infectious rash, scabs, or body fluids
- respiratory secretions during prolonged, face-to-face contact, or during intimate physical contact, such as kissing, cuddling, or sex
- touching items (such as clothing or linens) that previously touched the infectious rash or body fluids
- pregnant people can spread the virus to their fetus through the placenta
- contact with infected animals, either by being scratched or bitten by the animal or by preparing or eating meat or using products from an infected animal.

Anyone who has had close physical contact with someone who has symptoms of monkeypox or has traveled to a country with confirmed cases of monkeypox or where monkeypox is endemic, is at risk for infection. If staff believe they have been exposed to someone with confirmed monkeypox or are experiencing the above signs or symptoms including development of a rash, they should isolate at home and contact their employer and primary care provider immediately for further instruction.

The Department is committed to keeping all New Yorkers safe and encourages healthcare facilities to work with staff on similar safeguarding measures.

Clinical questions about this letter should be directed to icp@health.ny.gov.