



ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

19 Public Square, Suite 150 - Belleville, IL 62220

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 8/10/2022

Contact: Brenda Fedak
618-233-7703 ext. 4420

St. Clair County Health Department is reporting the first CDC confirmed case of Monkeypox within its jurisdiction

Second probable positive case awaiting CDC confirmation

Belleville, IL – August 10, 2022 - The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) is reporting the first confirmed case of monkeypox in St. Clair County Health Department's jurisdiction. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has confirmed the probable monkeypox (MPV) case reported by SCCHD on July 14, 2022 as positive. The SCCHD worked closely with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the CDC, the confirmed positive individual and their healthcare providers. The individual remained [isolated per CDC guidelines](#). Previous investigation showed the individual had minimal contact with the public. Close contacts to this case were notified and offered [vaccine](#).

On July 29th, 2022, the health department received confirmation of a second probable case of MPV within St. Clair County Health Department's jurisdiction and is awaiting confirmation from the CDC. The case remains [isolated per CDC guidelines](#). Contact tracing efforts show the individual has had minimal contact with the public, and any potential close contacts have been notified. To protect patient confidentiality, no further details relating to either patient will be disclosed.

If an individual suspects they have been infected or exposed to (MPV), they should contact their health care provider. The vaccine used for MPV is currently intended for those individuals who are close contacts to confirmed monkeypox case and have NOT tested positive for MPV. Vaccine supplies for monkeypox are very limited and not everyone needs to be vaccinated for monkeypox. The health department will provide vaccine for those individuals identified as close contacts through contact tracing.

While anyone can get monkeypox, people who may be at higher risk might include but are not limited to those who:



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1. Had contact with someone who had a rash that looks like monkeypox or someone who was diagnosed with confirmed or probable monkeypox
2. Had skin-to-skin contact with someone in a social network experiencing monkeypox activity, this includes gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM), who meet partners through an online website, digital application (“app”), or social event (e.g., a bar or party) or GBMSM with 2 or more casual sexual partners or GBMSM partnered with GBMSM who have multiple casual partners in the last 14 days or GBMSM who gave or received money or other goods/services in exchange for sex with other GBMSM in the last 14 days
3. Traveled outside the US to a country with confirmed cases of monkeypox or where monkeypox activity has been ongoing
4. Had contact with a dead or live wild animal or exotic pet that exists only in Africa or used a product derived from such animals (e.g., game meat, creams, lotions, powders, etc.).

How to Protect yourself – [Monkeypox Prevention Steps](#)

Take the following three steps to prevent getting monkeypox:

1. Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox.
 - Do not touch the rash or scabs of a person with monkeypox.
 - Do not kiss, hug, cuddle or have sex with someone with monkeypox.
2. Avoid contact with objects and materials that a person with monkeypox has used.
 - Do not share eating utensils or cups with a person with monkeypox.
 - Do not handle or touch the bedding, towels, or clothing of a person with monkeypox.
3. Wash your hands often.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially before eating or touching your face and after you use the bathroom.

When traveling in Central and West Africa, avoid contact with animals that [can spread monkeypox](#) virus, usually rodents and primates. Also, avoid sick or dead animals, as well as bedding or other materials they have touched.

Since May 14, 2022, clusters of monkeypox cases have been reported in several countries that



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don't normally have monkeypox. As of August 10, 2022, the [CDC reports](#) 9,492 confirmed cases of orthopox/monkeypox across 42 states including Illinois, which is reporting [717 cases](#). Illinois monkeypox cases include all probable and confirmed cases as of August 10, 2022.

Monkeypox is a rare, but potentially serious viral illness, which belongs to the Orthopoxvirus family, and typically begins with flu-like symptoms and swelling of the lymph nodes, and progresses to a rash on the face and body. Most infections last 2 to 4 weeks. Monkeypox is typically endemic to parts of central and west Africa, and people can be exposed through bites or scratches from rodents and small mammals, preparing wild game, or having contact with an infected animal or possibly animal products.

For more about this virus, <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/about.html>

About the St. Clair County Health Department

The St. Clair County Health Department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in St. Clair County. Learn more about the St. Clair County Health Department at <https://health.co.st-clair.il.us>. For more information, please contact Brenda Fedak at brenda.fedak@co.st-clair.il.us or via phone at 618-233-7703 ext. 4420

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