



MonkeyPox

(PUBLIC HANDOUT)

What is MonkeyPox?

MonkeyPox is a rare viral disease that occurs mainly in the rain forest countries of Central and West Africa. The disease was first discovered in laboratory monkeys in 1958. In 1970, MonkeyPox was reported in humans for the first time. In June 2003, MonkeyPox was reported in prairie dogs and humans in the United States.

What are the clinical features of MonkeyPox?

In humans, MonkeyPox is similar to smallpox, although it is often milder. Unlike smallpox, MonkeyPox causes lymph nodes to swell. The incubation period for MonkeyPox is about 12 days (range 7 to 17 days). The illness begins with fever, headache, muscle aches, backache, swollen lymph nodes, a general feeling of discomfort, and exhaustion. Within 1 to 3 days (sometimes longer) after the appearance of fever, the patient develops a papular rash (i.e., raised bumps), often first on the face but sometimes initially on other parts of the body. The lesions usually develop through several stages before crusting and falling off.

How long does MonkeyPox last?

MonkeyPox typically lasts about 2-4 weeks.

How do people get MonkeyPox?

MonkeyPox can spread to humans from an infected animal through an animal bite or direct contact with the animal's lesions or body fluids. The disease also can be spread from person to person, although it is much less infectious than smallpox. The virus is thought to be transmitted by respiratory droplets during direct and prolonged face-to-face contact. In addition, it is possible MonkeyPox can be spread by direct contact with body fluids of an infected person or with virus-contaminated objects, such as bedding or clothing.

Is there a treatment or vaccine for MonkeyPox?

Currently, there is no proven, safe treatment for MonkeyPox.

Where can I get more information on MonkeyPox?

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/MonkeyPox/qa.htm>