



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 29, 2022

## **State confirms first positive Monkeypox case in Cabarrus County**

Kannapolis, N.C. – The North Carolina State Lab for Public Health has confirmed the first case of Monkeypox in a Cabarrus County resident. Monkeypox is a rare but potentially serious, viral illness that typically involves flu-like symptoms, swelling of the lymph nodes and a rash that starts flat then becomes bumpy and fluid-filled before scabbing over and resolving. Illness could be confused with a sexually transmitted infection like syphilis or herpes, or with varicella zoster virus (chickenpox). Most infections last two to four weeks.

The case was first tested locally and reported to the health department Friday. Cabarrus Health Alliance (CHA) is working closely with NCDHHS, and the patient is currently isolating and has not been hospitalized. No other patient information will be released.

“We believe that the risk to residents from this initial case is low, but we know it is likely that we will experience more cases,” said Dr. Bonnie Coyle, CHA Health Director. “We are asking that residents be aware and if they have unexplained rash, sores or other symptoms, they see their healthcare provider. If they do not have a health care provider or health insurance, please contact our agency.”

Since May 2022, 20,804 monkeypox cases have been identified outside of countries that have historically reported monkeypox, with 4,906 cases identified in the United States and 46 in North Carolina. Epidemiologic investigation of these cases is ongoing. Information about international cases is available from the [World Health Organization](https://www.who.int) and information about U.S. cases is available from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov).

CHA will provide updates through its website, [www.cabarrushealth.org](https://www.cabarrushealth.org). You can also call the Health Information Line at 704-920-1213 or email [healthinfo@cabarrushealth.org](mailto:healthinfo@cabarrushealth.org) for information or to be connected for a medical appointment. Follow the CHA on Facebook and Twitter, @CabarrusHealth.

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# Monkeypox: What You Need to Know



## 2022 U.S. Monkeypox Outbreak

Anyone can get monkeypox, but many of the cases identified in the current outbreak have been in men who have sex with men, thanks in part to the vigilance of those who sought testing when concerns arose leading to the recognition that monkeypox was spreading in the U.S.

The disease is accompanied by a rash, which may look like pimples or blisters, often with an earlier flu-like illness. The rash starts flat then becomes bumpy and fluid-filled before scabbing over and resolving. This happens over a period of 2-4 weeks. Rashes may be all over the body, including the palms, feet, and head, or located only on specific body parts such as the genitals or around the buttocks.

Updated global and U.S. case numbers are posted on the CDC site [here](#).

## Transmission

Monkeypox is transmitted person-to-person through direct skin-to-skin contact, having contact with an infectious rash, through body fluids or through respiratory secretions. Such contact often occurs during prolonged, face-to-face contact or during intimate physical contact, such as kissing, cuddling or sex.

People who do not have monkeypox symptoms cannot spread the virus to others. Learn more about how monkeypox is spread and a summary of the 2022 U.S. outbreak: <https://bit.ly/3bczSiE>

## Vaccines & Eligibility

Vaccines are available in limited supply, at no cost, for individuals with known or suspected exposure to monkeypox. This includes:

- People who have been in close physical contact with someone diagnosed with monkeypox in the last 14 days (PEP)
- Men who have sex with men, or transgender individuals, who report any of the following in the last 90 days:
  - o Having multiple or anonymous sex partners
  - o Being diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection
  - o Receiving HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)
- Available for certain healthcare workers and public health response team members designated by public health authorities

Individuals who meet these criteria can [call their local health department](#) to make an appointment to receive the vaccine, or they can call one of the seven local health departments that have already received vaccines as part of the phase 2b allocation of Jynneos vaccine:

- |                             |                              |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Cumberland (910) 433-3600 | • Forsyth (336) 703-3100     | • New Hanover (910) 798-6800 |
| • Buncombe (828) 250-5300   | • Guilford (336) 641-3245    | • Pitt (252) 902-2300        |
| • Durham (919) 560-9217     | • Mecklenburg (980) 314-9400 | • Wake (919) 250-4462        |

## Prevention

If you have an unexplained rash, sores, or other symptoms, see your health care provider — if you don't have a provider or health insurance, contact your local health department. Keep the rash covered and avoid sex or being intimate with anyone until you have been checked out by a health care provider. Avoid in-person gatherings. Standard household cleaners and detergents are effective at cleaning environmental surfaces and linens.

