



MONKEYPOX (HMPXV) GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS, EARLY CARE, AND EDUCATION



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OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND

Monkeypox (HMPXV) is a viral disease that can cause flu-like symptoms and a rash. Hmpxv does not spread easily between people, so the risk to children and adolescents in the United States at this time is low. However, it is essential to know that hmpxv can infect anyone – including children – if they have close, personal, skin-to-skin contact with someone who has an active rash or lesions.

In this outbreak, most cases of hmpxv have been associated with sexual contact. Hmpxv may also spread by touching fabrics (clothing, bedding, sleeping mats, or towels), contaminated objects (such as toys or eating utensils), and surfaces that have been used by someone with hmpxv.

PRESENTATION, COMMON SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Symptoms usually start within 3 weeks of exposure to the virus. Symptoms of hmpxv can include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle aches and backache
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Chills
- Respiratory symptoms (e.g. sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough)
- A rash that can look like pimples or blisters that appears on the face, inside the mouth, and on other parts of the body, like the hands, feet, chest, genitals, or anus.
- Sometimes, people get a rash first, followed by other symptoms. Others only experience a rash.

SHOULD STUDENTS, TEACHERS, STAFF, AND VOLUNTEERS GET VACCINATED FOR MONKEYPOX?

Currently, there is no need for widespread vaccination for hmpxv among children or staff at K-12 schools or early childhood settings. Vaccines are available for close contacts of positive cases and those considered to be at very high-risk for exposure.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A POSSIBLE EXPOSURE:

Settings should follow their everyday operational guidance that reduces the transmission of infectious diseases. This includes:

- Children, staff, and volunteers stay home when sick
- Ensure access to adequate handwashing supplies, including soap and water
- Maintain routine cleaning and disinfection practices
- Identify private spaces for assessment of an ill child away from others
- Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff who care for students with infectious diseases

WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS A CASE OF HMPXV IN YOUR SETTING:

Review CDC guidance for [Schools, Early Care and Education Programs, and Other Settings Serving Children or Adolescents](#)

Clean the classroom/space: The areas where the person with hmpxv spent time should be cleaned and disinfected before further use. Follow the CDC guidance for [Disinfecting the Home and Other Non-Healthcare Settings](#)

	<p>to clean and disinfect surfaces, floors, and shared items such as toys, learning materials, sports equipment, or uniforms used by the person with hmpxv.</p> <p>Support the health department in contact tracing: Contact tracing can help identify people with exposure to someone with hmpxv and may prevent additional cases. Settings serving children and adolescents should contact Lane County Public Health (541) 682 -4041 if a person with confirmed hmpxv has been in their facility.</p> <p>Communicate: Provide information about preventing the spread of hmpxv to staff members, volunteers, students (when age appropriate), and parents. Keep messages fact-based to avoid introducing stigma. Anyone can get hmpxv and is a health concern for all.</p>
<p>WHEN CAN SOMEONE WITH HMPXV RETURN TO YOUR SETTING?</p>	<p>People with hmpxv should cover all lesions and wear a well-fitting mask until all scabs have fallen off, and a fresh layer of healthy skin has formed. Caregivers should work with a healthcare provider and the Lane County Public Health to decide when the child or adolescent is no longer infectious and can return to the educational setting.</p> <p>Staff or volunteers who have hmpxv should isolate and be restricted from the workplace according to OHA’s Isolation Guidance.</p>
<p>WHEN CAN SOMEONE WITH AN EXPOSURE TO HMPXV RETURN TO YOUR SETTING?</p>	<p>Children, staff, and volunteers who are exposed to a person with hmpxv do not need to be excluded from an educational setting in most cases.</p> <p>If contact tracing may not be possible and there was a high degree of exposure, the health department may consider limiting an individual’s participation in activities. The health department will consider the age of the individual and their ability to recognize or communicate symptoms, the types of interactions in the environment, and the risk of more severe disease to others in the setting.</p> <p>Settings that have children or adolescents in residence, like boarding schools, overnight camps, or other residential environments, should follow considerations for congregate settings.</p>
<p>CONTACTING LANE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH</p>	<p>If you think there has been an exposure among students, teachers, or staff please call Lane County Public Health (541) 682-4041 to discuss your situation with our team.</p>
<p>REFERENCES AND HELPFUL DOCUMENTS:</p>	<p>CDC: Schools, Early Care and Education Programs, and Other Settings Serving Children or Adolescents</p> <p>CDC: What you Need to Know about Monkeypox if you are a Teen or Young Adult</p> <p>CDC: Monkeypox Signs and Symptoms</p> <p>CDC: Disinfecting Home and Other Non-Healthcare Settings</p>