



Understanding Monkeypox and UTA's Response Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is monkeypox?

Monkeypox is a disease caused by a virus similar to that which causes smallpox, but symptoms from monkeypox are usually milder. Infections with the type of monkeypox seen in this [2022 outbreak](#) are rarely fatal, but symptoms can be painful.

2. What's the status of monkeypox in our community?

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) is tracking multiple cases associated with a recent outbreak of monkeypox that has been reported in several countries, including the United States. [Tarrant County Public Health](#) and [Dallas County Public Health](#) are tracking cases of monkeypox. Please review county public health departments in areas outside of Tarrant and Dallas counties for relevant information.

3. How does monkeypox spread?

Anyone can get monkeypox, regardless of age or sex, though the virus does not spread easily. [Monkeypox is transmitted](#) in different ways. The virus can spread from person to person 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, bedding, or towels) that previously touched the infectious rash or body fluids
- the placenta of a pregnant person to their fetus

It's also possible for people to get monkeypox from infected animals, either by being scratched or bitten, by preparing or eating their meat, or by using products made from them.

Monkeypox can spread from the time symptoms start until the rash has fully healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed. The illness typically lasts two to four weeks. It does not linger in the air and is not thought to be transmitted during short periods of shared air space. People who do not have monkeypox symptoms cannot spread the virus to others.

4. What are the symptoms of monkeypox?

It's important to familiarize yourself with the [signs and symptoms of monkeypox](#). The illness may begin with:

- fever
- headache
- muscle aches
- backache

- swollen lymph nodes
- chills
- fatigue, exhaustion

The incubation period (time from infection to symptoms) for monkeypox is usually seven to 14 days but can range from five to 21 days.

Within one to three days (sometimes longer) after the appearance of a fever, the patient develops a rash or sores, sometimes located on hands, feet, chest, face, around the genitals, or inside the body, including mouth, vagina, or anus. The illness typically lasts two to four weeks.

5. What are the steps I can take to prevent getting monkeypox?

At this time, the risk of monkeypox in the United States is believed to be low. However, anyone in direct, prolonged contact with a person with monkeypox can get it and should take steps to protect themselves, like the following:

- Avoid direct, 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.
 - Do not share utensils or cups with a person with monkeypox.
- Do not handle or touch the bedding, towels, or clothing of a person with monkeypox.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

6. Can I be vaccinated for monkeypox?

While there are effective vaccines for monkeypox, the monkeypox vaccine is extremely limited at this time and is being reserved by local health departments for exposed individuals and those at high risk. CDC does not recommend widespread vaccination against monkeypox at this time. However, vaccination may be recommended as Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Vaccines for people who have had contact with someone who has monkeypox.

UTA Health Services does not stock the monkeypox vaccines and does not currently have any plans to, but will assist in coordinating referrals for vaccination and/or treatment for eligible students.

Eligible employees should contact their personal health care providers.

Eligible students and eligible employees may also contact their local public health authority regarding monkeypox vaccine availability.

7. What do I do if I've been exposed or possibly exposed?

If you feel sick or have unexplained rashes, or you're concerned about potential or known exposure, do not come to campus. Instead, make plans to get tested. Students can get

tested through UTA Health Services; call 817-272-2771 to make an appointment. Employees seeking testing should contact their personal health care providers or local public health authority.

8. What do I do if I test positive for monkeypox?

If you test positive for monkeypox, follow guidance from your health care provider. Wear a face mask and avoid direct contact with others until all symptoms resolve. Most importantly, stay home, follow CDC [monkeypox isolation guidance](#), and refer to CDC [guidance for individuals sick with monkeypox](#). Notify your manager and/or instructors if your ability to work and/or fulfill course requirements will be impacted. Reporting positive diagnoses is not currently required by UTA.

9. Can I get tested for monkeypox on campus?

Students can get tested for monkeypox through UTA Health Services. Call 817-272-2771 to make an appointment. Employees seeking testing should contact their personal health care providers or local public health authority.

10. Does UTA offer quarantine and isolation housing for individuals who test positive for monkeypox?

UTA has limited on-campus housing available to offer isolation housing to students who test positive for monkeypox and do not have an off-campus location to isolate. UTA does not currently have off-campus isolation housing available. Should the need arise, UTA would follow public health guidance on isolation.

11. What do I do if I see someone on campus who looks like they have monkeypox?

You are encouraged to avoid direct, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox. However, UTA students and employees should not approach any individual they suspect of having monkeypox and should not ask their status or tell them to get tested.

12. Will UTA notify employees and students if a positive monkeypox case is identified in our community?

UTA will work with public health officials and regulatory agencies to fulfill all mandated reporting requirements.

13. I am a UTA employee and tested positive for monkeypox. Am I required to use PTO or sick leave to cover my isolation period?

Faculty and staff who test positive for monkeypox will be required to work remotely, if possible, or take sick leave or another appropriate leave in accordance with HR policies and regulations. As with any illness, instructors should coordinate with their department chairs to ensure continuation of courses.

14. I am a UTA student and tested positive for monkeypox. How do I attend classes while in isolation?

As in the case of all medical emergencies, students who test positive for monkeypox are advised to communicate directly with their instructors about their need to be out of class

for an extended period of time. Faculty will work one-on-one with students to identify the best path for their particular course.

If a member of the faculty requests proof of diagnosis to support learning accommodations, students may submit their medical diagnosis to the Dean of Students (dos@uta.edu), who will communicate directly with faculty if necessary.

In some situations, extended medical leave may make some students unable to complete the semester. Students who find themselves in or potentially in this situation should work with the Dean of Students (dos@uta.edu) to determine options for medical withdrawal.

15. How long after a UTA student or employee tests positive must pass before they may return to campus?

Positive individuals should refer to [CDC guidance on isolation and prevention practices](#) and work with their health care providers to determine when it is safe to return to campus.

16. What safety measures will UTA provide for the campus?

Students can get tested for monkeypox through UTA Health Services; call 817-272-2771 to make an appointment. Additionally, high touch points across campus continue to receive additional cleaning.