

Monkeypox update

 UK Health Security Agency



Monkeypox: what to look out for

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is investigating the source of monkeypox infections as evidence suggests that there may be transmission of the virus nationally, spread by close contact.

It is working closely with the NHS and other stakeholders to urgently investigate where and how recent confirmed monkeypox cases were acquired, including how they may be linked to each other.

Monkeypox is a rare viral infection that does not spread easily between people. It is usually a mild self-limiting illness and most people recover within a few weeks. However, severe illness can occur in some individuals.

The virus can spread if there is close contact between people and the risk to the UK population is low.

Symptoms include:

- Unusual rashes or lesions on the body such as the face or genital area
- Fever
- Muscle aches
- Chills and exhaustion
- Headaches
- Swollen lymph nodes

Anyone who thinks they have monkeypox symptoms however mild should contact NHS 111 or call a sexual health clinic immediately. Calls will be treated sensitively and confidentially and those with symptoms should avoid close personal contact with others until a clinical assessment is completed.