



To: All District Staff

From: Derek Harris
Lead Agent, Risk Management

Subject: Monkeypox Virus

Bulletin No. RM-23-01

August 10, 2022

On August 1, 2022, Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency and issued a [proclamation](#), as part of the State's ongoing response to the monkeypox outbreak. As of August 4, 2022, there were 1,310 confirmed cases of monkeypox in the state of California. All cases, with the exception of 3, are individuals who are 18 years of age or older. There are 8 known cases in San Bernardino County. The District is aware that our community has concerns about the monkeypox virus and more specifically, how it relates to the safety and wellness of students and staff.

Monkeypox, which was first discovered in 1958, is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. The monkeypox virus is part of the same family of viruses as the variola virus, the virus that causes smallpox. Monkeypox symptoms are similar to smallpox symptoms but are milder. Monkeypox is rarely fatal and is not related to chickenpox.

Monkeypox might start with symptoms like the flu, with fever, low energy, swollen lymph nodes, and general body aches. Within 1 to 3 days (sometimes longer) after the appearance of fever, the person can develop a rash or sores. Monkeypox can spread to anyone through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact, including:

- Direct contact with monkeypox rash, scabs, or body fluids from a person with monkeypox
- Touching objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox
- Contact with respiratory secretions

There are no treatments specifically for monkeypox virus infections. However, monkeypox and smallpox viruses are genetically similar, which means that antiviral drugs and vaccines developed to protect against smallpox may be used to prevent and treat monkeypox virus infections.

Take the following steps to prevent getting monkeypox:

- Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox
- Avoid contact with objects and materials that a person with monkeypox has used
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially before eating or touching your face and after you use the restroom

If you have symptoms of monkeypox, you should talk to your healthcare provider, even if you don't think you had contact with someone who has monkeypox.

The District's COVID-19 cleaning and disinfecting protocols are effective in slowing the spread of monkeypox. The District will continue to provide face masks as an option, alcohol-based hand sanitizer and other personal protective equipment as may be necessary for any student or staff member upon request. Classrooms and high traffic areas are disinfected and cleaned daily. Additionally, the District uses hospital grade (MERV-13) air filters in all heating and air ventilation systems (HVAC). Frequent hand-washing is encouraged for students and staff.

Please feel free to contact Risk Management Services at (909) 820-7700 Ext. 2110 should you need additional information or support.