



Lewis County Public Health & Social Services

News Release

For immediate release: July 22, 2022

Probable case of monkeypox virus being investigated in Lewis County

Chehalis, WA – Lewis County Public Health & Social Services (LCPHSS) is investigating a probable case of monkeypox virus infection. Initial testing confirming an Orthopoxvirus infection was completed on Thursday, July 21, 2022 at the Washington State Public Health Laboratory. Confirmatory testing will be done at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The case is in an adult male. As of July 22, 2022, there have been a total of 83 confirmed and probable cases of monkeypox reported in Washington State this year.

The patient was not hospitalized and is recovering at home. He is isolating and does not pose a risk to others. LCPHSS is working with him and his healthcare providers to identify anyone who may have come into close contact with him while he was infectious. LCPHSS will work with close contacts to protect their health and stop the spread of this disease.

Monkeypox is a viral disease not often seen in the United States. The first cases reported in Washington were linked to travel, but recent cases were likely acquired in Washington. This first probable case in Lewis County does not appear to be related to travel.

Anyone can get monkeypox. The virus spreads during close, physical contact with:

- Monkeypox rash, sores, or scabs.
- Objects, fabrics or surfaces a person with monkeypox used.
- Respiratory droplets or oral fluids from a person with monkeypox.

Monkeypox can spread as soon as symptoms start until all sores heal and a fresh layer of skin forms. This can take several weeks. Anyone who has close physical contact with a person who has monkeypox is at risk. Men who have sex with men may be at higher risk because the virus is spreading in their communities.

Most people recover without treatment in 2 to 4 weeks, but the disease can be serious, especially for children and people who are immune compromised or pregnant.

Monkeypox can cause a rash that looks like bumps, blisters or ulcers. Before the rash, some people have flu-like symptoms including:

- Fever

- Headache
- Muscle aches and backache
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Chills
- Exhaustion

If you have a new rash or sores or other symptoms:

- Avoid sex or intimate contact.
- See your healthcare provider. Remind them monkeypox may be circulating in the community.

Healthcare providers may prescribe antiviral medicine for people who are at high risk of severe disease.

Answers to frequently asked questions about monkeypox are available at:

<https://doh.wa.gov/public-health-healthcare-providers/notifiable-conditions/rare-disease-public-health-significance/monkeypox#FAQs>

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