

MONKEYPOX

SCHOOL REPORTING RESPONSE PLAN



CAMERON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH



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OVERVIEW

In response to a new school year and given the current health landscape of Texas, Cameron County Public Health has developed the Monkeypox School Reporting Response Plan. The primary purpose of this document is to provide school districts a system for reporting a student and/or staff that has been identified as probable or suspect monkeypox case.

Cameron County Public Health is cognizant of the fact that the monkeypox situation is very fluid and that there may be a need to revise the document as the situation warrants. In order to provide the most updated information and guidance, this document will be based on health information from the Texas Department of State Health Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or other leading health authorities and will be revised periodically.

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MONKEYPOX FACT SHEET

Monkeypox is a rare viral disease transmitted through close personal contact of an infected person or their belongings. Monkeypox is similar in symptom appearance as smallpox, but is rarely fatal. Despite the name, monkeypox is not related to chickenpox.

Symptoms

- Fever ($\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ or 38°C)
- Muscle aches
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Exhaustion
- Rash that typically begins on the face or genitals that spreads to other parts of the body, including the hands, feet, and chest.
 - Key characteristics of monkeypox rashes include:
 - Lesions that are deep seated, well circumscribed, and have umbilication (a dot at the top of the lesion).
 - Lesions that are approximately the same size and stage on a single site of the body.
 - Lesions that are painful until the healing phase, where they become itchy and crust.

Monkeypox Rash Photos



FACT SHEET (CONTINUED)

Spread

The virus typically spreads from close personal contact with an infected person, such as touching objects and personal belongings like clothing, surfaces, and towels. The virus can also spread by touching an infectious rash, scabs, or bodily fluids, and through respiratory secretions.

The virus also spreads through direct contact such as while hugging, kissing, sexual contact, or other prolonged face-to-face contact. A pregnant person may spread the virus to their fetus. It is also possible for people to get monkeypox from infected animals, typically through scratches or bites.

An individual is contagious from the time their symptoms start until the rash has fully healed and a new layer of skin has formed (2-4 weeks).

Prevention

- Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox.
 - Do not touch any rash, scab, or lesions.
 - Do not kiss, hug, cuddle or have sex with anyone that has a rash, scab, or lesions.
- Avoid contact with objects and materials from others.
 - Do not share eating utensils or cups.
 - 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, especially before eating or touching your face and after using the bathroom.
- Practice social distancing.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- If you are sick, call your healthcare provider and isolate until the scabs/lesions have fully resolved.



CONSIDERATIONS FOR ATHLETICS

Schools should work as diligently as possible to prevent the spread of monkeypox through isolation and infection control measures. Extra attention should be given in circumstances where students and staff are likely to be in greater contact with one another, such as in sporting events and practice.

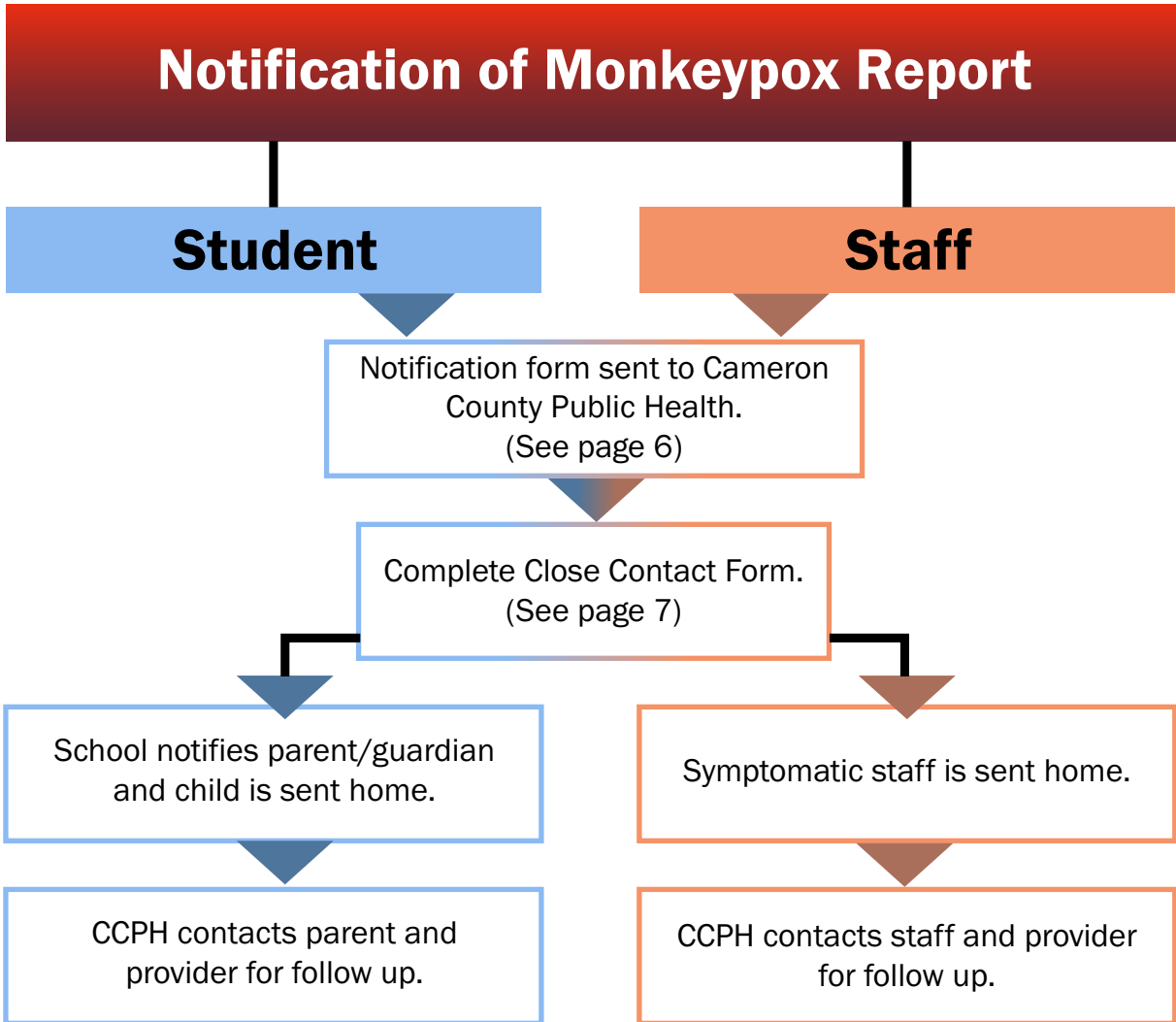
Schools should monitor staff and athletes for any symptoms of monkeypox. Infection control measures include:

- Limiting the use of shared items (i.e. equipment, mats, balls, towels and jerseys).
- Disinfecting equipment daily after every class, game, or practice.
- Displaying and usage of hand sanitizers in schools and gyms.
- Limiting hand shaking between coaches, players, referees, and fans.



REPORT OF A SUSPECT MONKEYPOX CASE

Notification of suspect Monkeypox Case



A close contact is anyone that has over 3 hours of direct exposure and was within 6 feet of a probable or confirmed monkeypox case within the last 21 days before their symptoms. Special attention should be given to contacts that had any skin-to-skin contact (sports teams, classrooms, etc.) or shared items (utensils, pencils, desks, etc.).





Cameron County Monkeypox School Notification Form

This form must be used to report suspect or confirmed case of Monkeypox to Cameron County Public Health. A public health investigator may contact you for additional information.
[Use one (1) Report Form for each individual case submitted.]

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY ▶	CC#: _____	Case#: _____
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ISD Reporting Facility: _____	School: _____	Date Submitted: _____
Name of Person Submitting Report: _____		Telephone Number: _____

First Name: _____	MI: _____	Last Name: _____	Date of Birth: ____/____/____	Age: _____	M <input type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Student: Grade _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher: Grade _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Staff: Title _____
Guardian's First Name: _____		Guardian's First Name: _____		Contact Number: _____			
Address: _____			City: _____	State: _____	ZIP: _____		

Name of Physician: _____	Lab Report Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Initial Onset of Symptoms: ____/____/____	Were Isolation Instructions Provided? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: ____/____/____
Office Number: _____		Specimen Collection Date: ____/____/____	Was Student Sent Home? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: ____/____/____

Travel within last 3 weeks: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Exposure: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Dates: _____	Additional Information: _____ _____ _____
If Yes, where: _____	Contact with Monkeypox case within last 3 weeks	
Reason for travel: _____	Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Human <input type="checkbox"/> Animal <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	

Fax to: (956) 361-8296 Email to: schoolreport@co.cameron.tx.us studentreport@co.cameron.tx.us	To speak to staff or report Immediately Reportable Conditions, call (866) 326-3397 or (956) 247-3650	Attached to this Form are: _____ additional page(s).
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CLOSE CONTACT FORM

A close contact is anyone that has over 3 hours of direct exposure and was within 6 feet of a probable or confirmed monkeypox case within the last 21 days before their symptoms

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Student/Staff	Name	Phone Number	Guardian's Name



SAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS

-- SCHOOL LETTERHEAD --

Date

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are writing this letter to inform you that an individual at your child's school has tested positive for monkeypox. Monkeypox is a rare viral disease transmitted through close personal contact of an infected person or their belongings. A close contact is anyone who has been within 6 feet of a probable or confirmed monkeypox case within the last 21 days for 3 hours or more without wearing, at minimum, a surgical mask.

In an effort to stop the spread of the disease, Cameron County Public Health is working with us to identify those who were in close contact with the person who tested positive. In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the following should stay home until they have met CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation or quarantine:

- Children and staff with symptoms consistent with monkeypox, which includes fever, swollen lymph nodes, muscle aches, exhaustion, or a rash with lesions that look like pimples or blisters.

At this time, your child may continue to attend school, but we ask you to monitor them for any signs and symptoms for the next 3 weeks. If your child begins experiencing any monkeypox symptoms, consult with a health care provider. If your child tests positive for monkeypox, please notify **the school point of contact** at (956) xxx-xxxx.

Thank you,

School Official



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

This section will be updated as more inquiries are received and more information becomes available.

Q: Who is at an increased risk?

A: Although anyone can get monkeypox, it does not spread easily between people; however, young children (<8 years of age), individuals who are pregnant or immunocompromised, and individuals with history of atopic dermatitis or eczema may be at especially increased risk for severe outcomes from monkeypox.

Q: When is someone contagious?

Stage of Disease	Transmissibility	Symptom monitoring or isolation?
Incubation Period	Not contagious	Monitor for symptoms
Prodrome	Possibly contagious	Isolate (at home or in a healthcare facility, as clinically indicated)
Rash	Contagious*	Isolate (at home or in a healthcare facility, as clinically indicated)

*A person is contagious until after all the scabs on the skin have fallen off and a fresh layer of intact skin has formed.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/faq.html>

Q: Does my child need to isolate after having been exposed to someone with monkeypox?

A: At this time, close contacts do not need to stay at home following an exposure. They should monitor for any signs or symptoms consistent with monkeypox for the next 21 days after their last exposure. If they develop and signs or symptoms, especially a rash or lesions, they should see a provider and get tested for monkeypox immediately.

Q: A student or staff appears on campus one day with lesions of unknown origin on their hands. They don't have any other symptoms. What steps should be taken?

A: The person with the lesions or rash should be sent home and provided instructions to go see their provider. They can return back to school after a diagnosis has been given.

Q: When should someone test for monkeypox?

A: People that have had close personal contact with someone who has monkeypox should visit a healthcare provider to request testing. A healthcare provider can decide if there are additional diseases to test for before testing for monkeypox.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

This section will be updated as more inquiries are received and more information becomes available.

Q: Is there a vaccine?

A: Because monkeypox and smallpox viruses are genetically similar, vaccines developed to protect against smallpox viruses may be used to prevent monkeypox infections. The U.S. government has two vaccines—JYNNEOS and ACAM2000—that can prevent monkeypox in people who are exposed to the virus.

Q: Should we be concerned about going to crowded events?

A: Consider how much close, personal, skin-to-skin contact is likely to occur at the event. Festivals, events, and concerts where attendees are fully clothed and unlikely to share skin-to-skin contact are safer. Parties and sports (for athletes) carry some risk, especially with skin-to-skin contact.

Q: How to monitor people unable to communicate onset of symptoms?

A: Some people may be unable to communicate onset of symptoms, such as newborns, young children, or people with cognitive disorders. Parents and other caregivers should watch for changes in behavior and temperament that could signal that the person is experiencing uncomfortable symptoms such as fatigue or headache.

Exposed people do not need to quarantine, but on a case-by-case basis, clinicians or public health officials could consider restricting programs, activities, or events that would pose high risk of transmission to other people (e.g., group play/education environments).

Decisions about whether to limit activities in people who have been exposed to monkeypox but are unable to communicate onset of symptoms should consider the risk of their exposure incident (how likely they are to develop monkeypox infection) and the risk that transmission would pose to other people (e.g., immunocompromised family members, young children).

