



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Case of Probable MPV (Monkeypox Virus) Identified in Kalamazoo County**

KALAMAZOO, MI – The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department (HCS) is reporting a probable case of MPV (Monkeypox Virus). The patient is currently isolating and does not pose a risk to the public. The Kalamazoo County HCS Communicable Disease team is identifying and monitoring any close contacts for symptoms. No additional cases have been identified at this time. To protect patient privacy, no further case details will be provided. Kalamazoo County HCS has created a [webpage for MPV information](#), including general MPV information, case counts, and vaccine eligibility criteria.

“At this time, the risk of contracting monkeypox remains low in Kalamazoo County,” said Kalamazoo County Health Officer Jim Rutherford. “HCS recommends, however, that Kalamazoo County Residents remain vigilant when it comes to preventing monkeypox. We will continue to work with all of our state and local community partners to keep residents informed of their risk, and the best methods of prevention. If you are concerned about your risk for contracting monkeypox, do not hesitate to reach out to your doctor or the health department for information.”

As of 9/18/22, 246 confirmed monkeypox cases have been identified in Michigan. Risk is low for the general public, but it’s important to be aware of the signs and symptoms of monkeypox. Initial symptoms of MPV may include fever, headache, muscle or back aches, swollen lymph nodes, chills and exhaustion. A rash then appears not long after or along with these symptoms and can look like pimples or blisters that can appear on the face, inside the mouth, and on other parts of the body, like the hands, feet, chest, genitals, or anus.

The illness typically lasts two to four weeks. The virus is spread from person-to-person by direct contact with the rash, sores, or scabs of a person with MPV. MPV can be transmitted during sex through skin-to-skin and other intimate sexual contact (such as kissing, cuddling, or massage). Less common routes of transmission include respiratory droplets from prolonged face-to-face contact or contact with contaminated materials such as clothing or bedding. Kalamazoo County HCS recommends anyone experiencing MPV signs and symptoms to contact their healthcare provider for evaluation and possible testing.

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**HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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There are no treatments specifically for MPV infections. However, MPV 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 MPV infections. Most people don't need a MPV vaccine right now. However, Kalamazoo County HCS is vaccinating eligible persons to prevent monkeypox infection based on specific criteria listed on our webpage. If someone has already been exposed, getting a MPV vaccine within 4 days can prevent the onset of disease. Getting vaccinated between 4 and 14 days after exposure, may reduce symptoms of the disease.

If you think you have MPV or may have been exposed:

- See your healthcare provider or contact your local health department to coordinate testing.
- Avoid sex or being intimate with anyone until you have been checked out.
- Avoid gatherings, especially if they involve close, personal, skin-to-skin contact.
- Think about the people you have had close, personal, or sexual contact with during the last 21 days, including people you've met through dating apps. To help stop the spread, you may be asked to share this information with the local health department if you receive a diagnosis of monkeypox.

For more information on MPV in Kalamazoo County, visit: [www.kalcounty.com/hcs/monkeypox.php](http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/monkeypox.php) for information on Monkeypox from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, visit: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/keep-mi-healthy/communicablediseases/diseasesandimmunization/mpv>

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Kalamazoo County Government  
Health & Community Services Department

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