

MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



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Monkeypox public health update

Erie, PA — Erie County Department of Health informs the public that there have been no new cases of monkeypox in Erie County since the first week of September. The total number of cases in the county since July 2022 remains at 10.

Monkeypox is a contagious disease caused by the same family of viruses that causes smallpox. Anyone can get monkeypox, regardless of age, gender or sexual orientation.

Vaccination

While the number of cases in the US and globally have steadily gone down in the past two months, community members who may be at higher risk of being exposed to monkeypox are still encouraged to get vaccinated if they are eligible. A majority of the cases of the recent outbreak has affected men who have sex with other men; they are encouraged to get vaccinated if they are eligible.

Monkeypox vaccine is available for free in Erie County. For vaccination eligibility and other guidance on monkeypox contact the Erie County Department of Health at ecdinfo@eriecountypa.gov or 814-451-6700 option 2.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination for people who have been exposed to or are at a higher risk of being exposed to monkeypox, including those who are sexually active with multiple or anonymous partners.

Symptoms and testing

Symptoms include fever, swollen lymph nodes, headache, muscle aches, backache, a general feeling of discomfort and exhaustion. Typically within 1-3 days after the fever, a rash or blisters (raised, fluid-filled bumps) develop, which can appear anywhere on the body. The rash usually goes through several stages before crusting and falling off, usually taking 2-4 weeks.

Consult your primary care provider if you have any of these symptoms for possible testing. Test results will help determine appropriate care and treatment if needed.

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