



# UTSW/Parkland BioTel EMS ALERT

June 3, 2022

## EMS ALERT 22-002: Monkeypox Update

The purpose of this Alert is to advise EMS professionals about Monkeypox and recent cases in the United States.

### ➤ Background:

- Since May 12, 2022, 21 confirmed cases of Monkeypox have been identified in the United States.
  - As of June 2, 2022, no cases have been identified in Texas or in bordering states.
  - Unlike prior cases in travelers returning from Africa including the July 2021 case in Dallas County (see [BioTel EMS Alert 21-001](#)), the source of exposure for these cases has not yet been identified.
- What is Monkeypox\*?
  - A rare disease caused by infection with monkeypox virus. It usually resolves in 2-4 weeks.
  - Similar to other poxviruses (e.g., chickenpox, smallpox), Monkeypox features a rash involving vesicles that proceed to pustules before scabbing over.
  - Treatment is supportive, although mortality MAY be up to 10%.
- [How does Monkeypox spread?](#)
  - Through direct contact with an infected animal or human, or by indirect contact with contaminated materials:
    - More common: Large respiratory droplets (similar to influenza virus) via broken skin, respiratory tract, or other mucous membranes
    - Less common: direct or indirect contact with body fluids or lesion material
  - It is **NOT** spread via airborne transmission **OR** by pre-symptomatic/asymptomatic infected persons
- Monkeypox is **NOT** smallpox, and it is neither as transmissible nor as deadly as smallpox
- EMS management includes infection prevention, supportive care, transport, and BioTel Notification

### ➤ EMS Action Items, Effective Immediately:

1. For any person with symptoms of acute viral illness (fever, chills, muscle aches, headache, swollen lymph nodes, skin rash):
  - Consider that they may have COVID-19, influenza, or another more common infection
  - Obtain a detailed history of travel to an endemic area (such as West or Central Africa) **AND/OR** close contact with individuals with confirmed infection in the past 3 weeks
2. Use appropriate PPE and source control:
  - Gloves, eye protection, and respiratory protection with a standard surgical mask for personnel
    - i. N95 respirator is not needed for monkeypox but should be worn if COVID-19 is suspected
  - Standard surgical mask for the patient and household contacts
  - Hand hygiene and standard apparatus/equipment disinfection procedures
3. **STRONGLY** encourage ill patients with acute viral illness to accept EMS transport to an appropriate ED:
  - Refusals should involve consultation with a BioTel Physician and thorough documentation
4. **Notify BioTel as soon as possible when transporting any ill patient with suspected acute viral illness and history of travel from Africa OR contact with a confirmed case of Monkeypox in the past 3 weeks**



[\\*CDC Monkeypox Web Page](#)



[‡Skin Rash \(source: CDC\)](#)



[‡Skin Rash \(source: BBC\)](#)

- Contact BioTel or the BioTel [Medical Direction Team](#) with questions or concerns