



# ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

19 Public Square, Suite 150 - Belleville, IL 62220

## PRESS RELEASE

Date: 7/14/2022

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### Probable Case of Monkeypox Being Investigated in St. Clair County

**Belleville, IL – July 14, 2022 - The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD)** is reporting the county's first probable case of monkeypox. The department is awaiting confirmation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This probable case is likely associated with domestic travel. An investigation shows the individual has had minimal contact with the public, and any potential close contacts have been notified. Contact tracing is appropriate given the nature and transmission of the virus, in order to coordinate timely risk assessment and appropriate post-exposure response. At this time, SCCHD has not identified any additional cases in the county. To protect patient confidentiality, no further details relating to the patient will be disclosed.

The case remains isolated and at this time there is no indication there is a great risk of extensive local spread of the virus, as monkeypox does not spread as easily as the COVID-19 virus. Person to person transmission is possible through close physical contact with body fluids, monkeypox sores, items that have been contaminated with fluids or sores (clothing, bedding, etc.), or through respiratory droplets following prolonged face-to-face contact.

**Anyone with a rash that [looks like monkeypox](#) should talk to their healthcare provider**, even if they don't think they had contact with someone who has monkeypox. People who may be at higher risk might include but are not limited to those who:

1. Had contact with someone who had a rash that looks like monkeypox or someone who was diagnosed with confirmed or probable monkeypox
2. Had skin-to-skin contact with someone in a social network experiencing monkeypox activity, this includes men who have sex with men who meet partners through an online website, digital application ("app"), or social event (e.g., a bar or party)
3. Traveled outside the US to a country with confirmed cases of monkeypox or where monkeypox activity has been ongoing



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4. Had contact with a dead or live wild animal or exotic pet that exists only in Africa or used a product derived from such animals (e.g., game meat, creams, lotions, powders, etc.).

Since May 14, 2022, clusters of monkeypox cases have been reported in several countries that don't normally have monkeypox. On June 14, 2022, the CDC issued an official [CDC HEALTH UPDATE](#) to the May 20, 2022, [Health Alert](#) regarding recent cases in the United States. As of July 13, 2022, the [CDC reports](#) 1,053 confirmed cases of orthopox/monkeypox across 42 states including Illinois, which is reporting [152 cases](#). Illinois monkeypox cases include all probable and confirmed cases as of July 13, 2022.

Monkeypox is a rare, but potentially serious viral illness, which belongs to the Orthopoxvirus family, and typically begins with flu-like symptoms and swelling of the lymph nodes, and progresses to a rash on the face and body. Most infections last 2 to 4 weeks. Monkeypox is typically endemic to parts of central and west Africa, and people can be exposed through bites or scratches from rodents and small mammals, preparing wild game, or having contact with an infected animal or possibly animal products.

For more about this virus, <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/>

## About the St. Clair County Health Department

The St. Clair County Health Department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in St. Clair County. Learn more about the St. Clair County Health Department at <https://health.co.st-clair.il.us>. For more information, please contact Brenda Fedak at [brenda.fedak@co.st-clair.il.us](mailto:brenda.fedak@co.st-clair.il.us) or via phone at 618-233-7703 ext. 4420

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