



# Monkeypox: Recommendations for Employers

Employers have a general duty to provide and maintain a workplace free from recognized hazards. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has not issued specific guidance for employers relating to Monkeypox at the time of publication, but The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has published Isolation and Prevention Practices for People with Monkeypox (CDC Prevention Practices), which can be used as a reference when assessing the safety of the workplace.

## The following are some best practices you can apply today to help avoid the spread of Monkeypox:

- While the Monkeypox vaccine is not readily and widely available, employers should encourage employees who are concerned about the virus to consult with their healthcare providers about the availability and advisability of the vaccine for them.
- Many of the same workplace practices observed during the COVID-19 pandemic apply for Monkeypox, including frequent handwashing, sanitizing, requiring the use of protective gear such as face coverings and gloves, as well as regular cleaning and disinfection of the workplace.
- If an employee contracts monkeypox, employers should encourage the employee to seek medical treatment immediately and to follow medical advice regarding monitoring, isolation, and the use of personal protective equipment (see below).
- Healthcare employers must ensure that workers are complying with OSHA requirements for protecting workers against occupational exposure to infectious disease, as well as the CDC's Infection Prevention and Control of Monkeypox in Healthcare Settings.

## For Those Infected:

The CDC recommends several ways an infected person can limit the spread of the Monkeypox virus. Infected individuals should isolate immediately. If the infected person cannot isolate and is symptomatic, the CDC Prevention Practices recommends that they:

- Avoid close or physical contact including sexual and/or close intimate contact with other people.
- Wear protective items to cover any lesions.
- Wear a well-fitting mask.
- Do not share items that have been worn or handled by other people or animals.
- Clean and disinfect items that have been worn or handled and surfaces that have been touched by a lesion.
- Avoid sharing utensils or cups.
- Avoid crowds and congregate settings.
- Wash hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially after direct contact with the rash.
- Stay at home or work remotely.

By using these preventative practices, employers can better advise employees on how to protect themselves from the Monkeypox virus. Employers should also review their own safety program to ensure that it includes infectious disease protocols and aligns with OSHA guidance.

To help make sure you are prepared, safe and able to respond, visit our Monkeypox Resource Center for the latest information.

[www.hubinternational.com/monkeypox](http://www.hubinternational.com/monkeypox)

