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# First case of monkeypox confirmed in US this year in man who had traveled to Canada

By

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[Updated](#)

Massachusetts confirmed the country's first case of monkeypox from a man coming back from Canada. Star Tribune via Getty Images

This first US case of [monkeypox](#) this year was confirmed in Massachusetts Tuesday as health officials said an adult man who recently returned from Canada contracted the disease.

The patient has been hospitalized in good condition and “the case poses no risk to the public,” according to the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#).

The department said it was working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other local health boards to contact and trace any individuals who may have been exposed to the patient.

Cases of the virus have been surging worldwide.

On Wednesday, officials confirmed five cases of monkeypox in Portugal and were investigating over a dozen others — all of which were men, most of them young.

Earlier in the week, UK officials said they identified four cases of monkeypox spread in London among gay and bisexual men around London. Nine cases have been confirmed in the country since May.

The disease is uncommon outside of central and west Africa and is part of the same family of viruses that includes chickenpox and smallpox.

Typical symptoms of monkeypox include fever, chills, a rash and lesions on the face or genitals resembling those caused by smallpox.

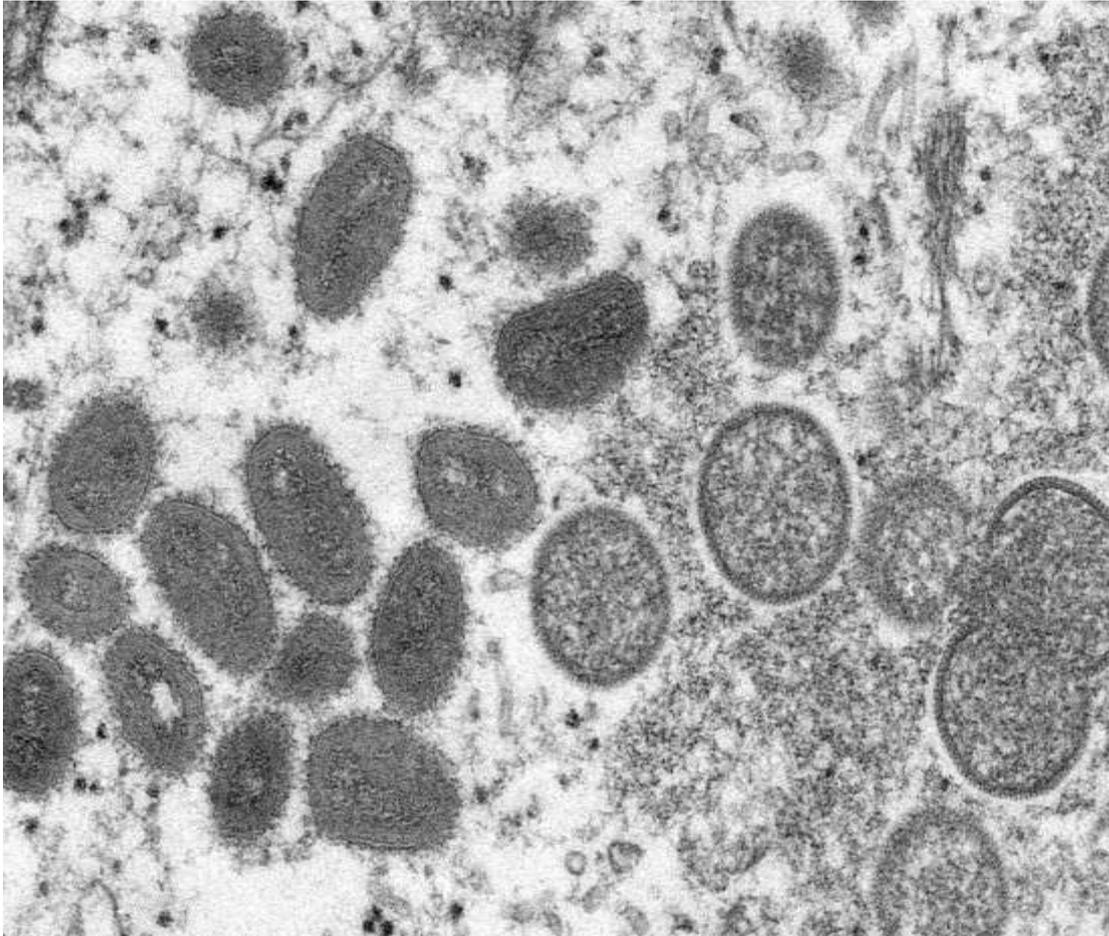


Monkeypox patients endure symptoms such as rashes. CDC/Brian W.J. Mahy/Handout via REUTERS

“Illness could be clinically confused with a sexually transmitted infection like syphilis or herpes, or with varicella zoster virus,” MPDH said. Infections typically last 2-4 weeks.

People are believed to be exposed to the virus in Africa through bites or scratches from rodents and small mammals, preparing wild game, or having contact with an infected animal or possibly animal products, officials said.

However the virus “does not spread easily between people,” MPDH said. Transmission through contact with body fluids, monkeypox sores, or clothing, or bedding contaminated with fluids or sores. It can also be exchanged through “respiratory droplets following prolonged face-to-face contact.”



Portugal previously detected five cases of monkeypox. Cynthia S. Goldsmith, Russell Regnery/CDC/Handout via REUTERS

A vaccine developed against smallpox has been approved for monkeypox, and several antivirals also appear to be effective.

According to MDPH, this is the first case confirmed in the United States in 2022. In 2021, cases were reported in Texas and Maryland in two people who had recently traveled to Nigeria.

Officials said people should be tested if they: develop an unexplained rash; have traveled to a country where monkeypox has been reported in the last 30 days; have been in contact with those with confirmed or suspected cases of monkeypox; or are men who have sex with other men.

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