

WHAT HOTELS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MONKEYPOX



The [CDC](#) (and [OSHA](#)) do not provide specific guidelines on monkeypox for the hotel industry. **No specific disinfectants or laundry detergents are recommended. The current Safe Stay guidelines are applicable.**

- The threat from a monkeypox outbreak to the hotel industry is [low](#). The prevalence is relatively low, and there have been [no deaths reported](#) in the US since the outbreak began. The infection is [preventable and treatable](#).
- The US [declaration of a public health emergency](#) helps the Administration obtain resources for a coordinated response; it is not a cause for alarm for the hotel industry.
- The only [mode of transmission](#) of monkeypox during this outbreak is intimate personal contact with an infected person. Though respiratory transmission is [possible](#), it has not been observed in this outbreak so far.
- There is a limited supply of [vaccines](#) that are used to prevent monkeypox. Health authorities [recommend vaccination](#) only for people in certain occupations and others at risk, but vaccination is not yet recommended for non-healthcare-related occupations or the general public. Previous vaccination against smallpox is [generally effective](#) at preventing monkeypox. The Biden Administration has released a [fact sheet](#) with the “aim to expand vaccination for individuals at risk and make testing more convenient for healthcare providers and patients across the country.”
- Monkeypox is a DNA virus, and SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) is an RNA virus. The two are [unrelated](#), and people should rely on authoritative sources for more information.

BACKGROUND

- Monkeypox is caused by [monkeypox virus](#), a member of the Orthopoxvirus genus in the family Poxviridae that was first described in 1958 in monkeys used for research; however, that name is misleading because monkeys are [not the primary host animal](#) for this infection.
 - Other Orthopoxviruses [include](#) variola (smallpox), vaccinia (the virus used to vaccinate against smallpox), cowpox, and several others that infect only certain species. Smallpox, for example, infects only humans.
 - Monkeypox causes infection in animals but [infects humans](#) at times. The natural animal reservoir for monkeypox is [not clearly known](#), but it is suspected to be large rodents. Endemic human cases of monkeypox [occur](#) in tropical rainforest areas of Central and West Africa and are occasionally exported to other regions.
- The most common avenue of [transmission](#) of monkeypox is through direct contact with active skin lesions, or theoretically through contact with material that was contaminated via contact with active skin lesions (fomite).
 - Scientists believe that monkeypox can be transmitted via respiratory droplets, but at the current time, there is [no evidence](#) to support respiratory or aerosol transmission. Theoretically, close and prolonged contact would be needed for respiratory transmission, so the CDC [recommends](#) mask wearing under such circumstances.
 - Monkeypox begins, as many [viral infections](#) do, with fever, headache, muscle aches, chills, and exhaustion. Swollen lymph nodes and backaches are also seen. In roughly one to three days, the characteristic skin rash [appears](#), and it goes through several stages. At some point, the rash becomes characteristic of poxvirus rashes.
 - The key point here is that the illness can last two to four weeks and is transmissible by contact until the lesions heal. In this case, [contact tracing and isolation](#) are very important.
 - Although not considered a traditional sexually transmitted disease, close contact (such as kissing, cuddling, or sex) has been implicated in the recent outbreak, according to the [CDC](#).



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