

Interim Case Definition for Human Case of Monkeypox

Clinical Criteria

Rash (macular, papular, vesicular, or pustular; generalized or localized; discrete or confluent)

Other signs and symptoms

- Temperature > 99.3° F (> 37.4° C)
- Headache
- Backache
- Lymphadenopathy
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Epidemiological Criteria

- Exposure*1 to an exotic mammalian pet*2 obtained on or after April 15, 2003, with clinical signs of illness (e.g., conjunctivitis, respiratory symptoms, and/or rash)
- Exposure*1 to an exotic mammalian pet*2 with or without clinical signs of illness that has been in contact with a case of monkeypox either in a mammalian pet*3 or a human
- Exposure to a suspect, probable, or confirmed human case

Laboratory Criteria

- Isolation of monkeypox virus in culture
- Demonstration of monkeypox virus DNA by polymerase chain reaction testing in a clinical specimen
- Demonstration of virus morphologically consistent with an orthopoxvirus by electron microscopy in the absence of exposure to another orthopoxvirus
- Demonstration of presence of orthopox virus in tissue using immunohistochemical testing methods in the absence of exposure to another orthopoxvirus.

Case Classification

Suspect Case

- Meets one of the epidemiologic criteria
- Rash OR two or more other signs or symptoms

Probable Case

- Meets one of the epidemiologic criteria
- Rash AND two or more other signs or symptoms

Confirmed Case

- Meets one of the epidemiologic criteria
- Rash AND two or more other signs and symptoms
- Meets one of the laboratory criteria

*1 Exposure includes living in a household, petting or handling, or visiting a pet holding facility (e.g., pet store, veterinary clinic, pet distributor)

*2 Exotic mammalian pets include prairie dogs, Gambian giant rats, and rope squirrels. Exposure to other exotic or non-exotic mammalian pets will be considered on a case-by-case basis; assessment should include the likelihood of contact with a mammal with monkeypox and the compatibility of clinical illness with monkeypox

*3 Contact between mammalian pets includes living in a household, or originating from the same pet holding facility as another animal with monkeypox

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, June 11, 2003