



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Denton County Reports Two New Cases of Monkeypox Virus Infection**

July 21, 2022 – Denton County Public Health (DCPH) has identified the second and third presumptive positive cases of monkeypox virus infection in Denton County. The test results are considered presumptive positive until the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirms.

DCPH is investigating these cases and working to identify individuals who may have had direct contact with the patients. No further personal information will be released to protect patient confidentiality.

Any person can contract monkeypox, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. Monkeypox transmission occurs through close physical contact with someone who has monkeypox, including contact with objects contaminated with the virus from contact with an infected person. Monkeypox is primarily spread through contact with infectious sores, scabs, or bodily fluids. The virus can spread by respiratory secretions during prolonged, face-to-face contact.

"Monkeypox cases are increasing in Texas, and we're asking the community to be aware of symptoms," stated Dr. Matt Richardson, Director of Public Health. "As before, the risk to the general public is low. However, limiting exposure to individuals who are sick, previously exposed and have a symptomatic rash is important. We continue to encourage healthcare providers to assess for potential infection."

There is currently limited monkeypox vaccine supply available. DCPH will work collaboratively with healthcare providers and other local health departments to identify high-risk contacts of confirmed or probable monkeypox cases. Vaccination may be offered as post-exposure prophylaxis.

Monkeypox often begins with fever, intense headache, muscle aches, exhaustion, and swollen lymph nodes. The time from infection to developing symptoms is usually 7 – 14 days; however, individuals may develop symptoms 5 – 21 days after exposure. Anyone with a rash that looks like monkeypox should avoid gatherings, sex, or being intimate with anyone until they consult their healthcare provider.

Please visit [dentoncounty.gov/monkeypox](https://dentoncounty.gov/monkeypox) for more information about monkeypox symptoms and prevention.

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