

HEALTH

What Is Monkeypox, and How Worried Should Americans Be?



public health at the University of California, Los Angeles.

How do you get monkeypox virus? Monkeypox is primarily spread from animals to humans — and less often from person to person because close contact with bodily fluids is needed, adds Hannah Newman, director of epidemiology at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City.

Risk factors for past outbreaks included contact with live or dead animals and consumption of wild game or bush meat from wild animals, Newman adds.

Once the virus jumps from an animal to a human, human-to-human transmission can occur through direct contact with respiratory droplets, bodily fluids or skin lesions.

Animal-to-human transmission, on the other hand, may occur through a bite or scratch.

The virus can enter the body through broken skin, the respiratory tract or through the eyes, nose and mouth.

“Anyone experiencing an unusual rash or lesion and who has risk factors [or had sexual encounters with someone who has] should seek care immediately,” she says.

Many of the newer cases worldwide have occurred among gay and bisexual men.

On Monday Enrique Ruiz Escudero, senior health official in the Spanish capital of Madrid, said the city has recorded 30 confirmed cases of monkeypox so far. He said authorities are investigating potential links between a recent Gay Pride event in the Canary Islands, which drew some 80,000 people, and cases at a Madrid sauna.

According to Newman, “it appears that there may be a sexual transmission component to the current outbreak, which we haven’t seen in previous outbreaks.” Gay or bisexual men may be at special risk during the current outbreak, she notes.

(Editor’s Note: The conclusion week June 2 with treatment and prevention.)

TA worrisome international outbreak of monkeypox, a less harmful cousin of the smallpox virus, has now reached the United States and Canada.

What is monkeypox? (Part 1)

Monkeypox is a rare disease, which generally occurs in remote parts of Central and West Africa. The virus was first discovered in 1958 when two outbreaks of a pox-like disease occurred in monkeys. The first known human case occurred in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and it has since been reported in humans in other central and western African countries, according to the CDC.

As of last week (May 20) 92 confirmed cases of the illness, and 28 more suspected cases, have been reported across 12 countries, according to the World Health Organization.

Cases of monkeypox had previously been seen only among people with links to central and West Africa, according to the Associated Press. But in the past week, the United States was among seven countries reporting infections, mostly in young men who hadn’t pre-

viously traveled to Africa. France, Germany, Belgium and Australia confirmed their first cases on Friday, May 20th.

Between 1 and 5 confirmed cases are currently under investigation in the United States, WHO said.

The latest wave of monkeypox was first seen in the United Kingdom, Portugal, Spain and other parts of Europe in early May. On Friday, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was monitoring six people in the United States for possible infection. They sat near one infected traveler on a flight from Nigeria to the United Kingdom in early May.

CDC officials are also investigating a confirmed case of monkeypox in a Massachusetts man who recently traveled to Canada, according to CNN. And the New York City Health Department is probing a possible infection in a patient at Bellevue Hospital there.

Monkeypox symptoms The illness begins with fever, swollen lymph nodes and other flu-like symptoms (chills, headache, muscle aches and fatigue), followed by a telltale

rash on the face that spreads to other areas, including genitals, hands and feet.

The rash typically affects the... face, which is the most common site palms of the hands soles of the feet mouth genitalia eyes, including the conjunctivae and cornea

The rash consists of lesions that evolve in the following order:

macules, or flat discolored lesions papules, or slightly raised lesions vesicles, or bumps with clear fluid pustules, or bumps with yellowish fluid

scabs A rash caused by monkeypox can cause severe itching and go through several stages before the lesions scab and fall off.

A monkeypox infection typically lasts two to four weeks and usually clears up on its own.

“It can last for several weeks, and people can feel fairly ill,” says Anne Rimo, chair of infectious diseases and

Long COVID Could Do Serious Damage in the Black Community

An estimated 7% percent of people who get COVID-19 may not get better, and past trends suggest Black people could be among those hardest hit.

Black people continue to be among the communities hit hardest by COVID-19. But with more research on Long COVID coming to the surface, experts say the nature of the pandemic is changing.

Dr. Carol Oladele, director of research at Yale’s Equity Research and Innovation Center, says while experts don’t have all the answers about the long-term COVID condition, studies are underway and past trends suggest the Black community could be heavily affected.

“All the studies are all trying to figure out what are the factors that cause people to continue to have symptoms beyond four weeks after infection. People thought that Black Americans would be most affected by Long COVID because they were disproportionately affected by COVID,” she says.

“The State of Black America and COVID-19,” a report released by the Black Coalition Against COVID in March details how Black families were impacted by primary infections during the pandemic.

For example, 1 in 310 Black children experienced the loss of a parent or caregiver compared to 1 in 738 white children between April 2020 and June 2021, according to the report.

But once the acute phase of the virus — with its accompanying fever, sore throat, body aches and other symptoms — has passed, too many Americans aren’t getting better.

Black people are more likely to work in essential worker positions, live in crowded conditions, and be incarcerated — which increases the risk of contracting the virus.

THE STATE OF BLACK AMERICA AND COVID-19, BLACK COALITION AGAINST COVID

An estimated 7% of people who contracted COVID are expected to experience Long COVID — 4.4% of peo-

ple who weren’t hospitalized, 21.7% of people who were hospitalized, and 36.5% of people who were admitted to intensive care, according to report from Nature.

“The evidence so far shows that Black Americans and folks who are Hispanic are more likely to experience symptoms that are characterized as Long COVID,” says Oladele, who contributed to the Black Coalition Against COVID’s two-year assessment.

People with Long COVID are dealing with fatigue, shortness of breath, and headaches — among other symptoms — for weeks or months after contracting the virus. The report from Nature shows Black people are more likely than other demographics to experience acute kidney injury, diabetes, chest pain, and cough.

Oladele says in January, a time when there appeared to be an overall reduction in cases, Black Americans were still seeking care, seeing the highest rates of COVID-associated hospitalizations since the pandemic started.

“It was sort of masking the continued burden that Black Americans were continuing to experience in a negative way,” she says. “The hospitalization rates were high, meaning people were sick enough to need the hospitalization.”

60% of Black people seeking COVID care feel they’re less likely than white people to have everything done to save their lives in the hospital.

2020 COVID-19 POLL OF AFRICAN AMERICAN VOTERS, NAACP The disproportionate impact of COVID on the Black community is due in part to preexisting social and structural inequities. Black people are more likely to work in essential worker positions, live in crowded conditions, and be incarcerated — which increases the risk of contracting the virus.

And while Black folks continue to work and live in places with dense populations, mask mandates are being lifted.

Black-Owned Tech Firm Receives Patent For Wristband and Smart Watch Used For Non-Invasive Detection of Glucose and Pathogens



Nationwide — Better Life Technologies Group, Inc., a Black-owned biotech firm based in San Diego, California, has been granted a patent for technology that will be used for the non-invasive detection of glucose and pathogens including COVID-19 and any variant. Their newest issued patent is US 10,959,651 B1. Accordingly, they may have ap-

plications for non-invasive cancer detection. This will be achieved by a wearable wristband or a smartwatch that integrates our revolutionary technology.

George McKinney, the founder and CEO of the company, comments, “The application for this technology is endless. Better Life is now ready to manufacture, sell, or partner with an IP firm to pos-

itively impact the healthcare system throughout the world. So we are pivoting to allow outside IP firms to participate in this revolutionary technology.”

He continues, “The goal of this transition is to develop the market-ready version of our technology which we believe could seriously curb the infectiousness of COVID. This version will be fully miniaturized and contain all the necessary wireless communication capabilities.”

Better Life Technologies Group, Inc. plans to obtain FDA approval and all the market certifications, as well as marketing a version of their technology that does not require FDA approval. This will be a licensable product that we can effectively market and mass produce.

McKinney continues, “For this phase, it’s imperative that we are partnered with an entity that can not only fund development monetarily but also assists with

development technically.”

This stage will be the catalyst for the creation of several additional patents as well. This step is monumental in its own right and is broken down into 3 steps. Miniaturization, validation and going to Market which we will do in partnership with ready, willing, and able IP development firms that can move this process forward.

Finally, to sum it up, their device will detect the specific signature of any chemical composition in the human body i.e., cancer, magnesium, calcium, hormonal levels, through our newly developed proprietary method of detecting gases as they are emitted from the epidermal layer of the skin in so doing we are able to measure its exact levels in of the blood from there, and there is no limit on what can be read and diagnosed.