

# Monkeypox Virus Disinfecting Guidance August 2022

### **Monkeypox Virus Disinfecting Guide**

Monkeypox a once rare virus has been experiencing an outbreak of cases in the US. With some of the highest concentrations from our area NY, NJ, and PA we thought it would be important to provide a Monkeypox cleaning guide. The following guide will give you some guidance on disinfecting for Monkeypox virus.



Monkeypox is transmissible by close contact to an infected victim through touch of the infected lesion or respiratory droplets. Fatality rates among the infected remain low.

### **Signs and Symptoms**

- The most prominent symptom of monkey pox is pimple like lesions that form mainly in the genital area but can be found in different areas of the body.
- In addition to the lesions some patients experience other flu like symptoms.



- Symptoms of monkeypox typically start within 3 weeks of exposure.
- A person is considered infections during the time when lesions are present and remain until the scabs of the lesions have been shed and new skin is showing.
- At the moment CDC is recommending those with close contact exposure self-monitor for 3 weeks and immediately report the appearance of lesions to their healthcare provider.



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## **Disinfecting Monkeypox Virus**

Luckily Monkeypox is a Tier 1 Enveloped virus which is the easiest to inactivate. Disinfectants and UV Light will damage the Monkeypox lipid envelope, causing the virus to no longer be infectious. While officially there are no disinfectants specifically registered for use against monkeypox, all products with Emerging Virus Protection claims have been tested against viruses that are more difficult to kill than monkeypox and therefore should be effective.



### **Monkeypox Disinfecting Guide for Schools**

Most general EVP classified disinfectants will be effective against the Monkeypox virus. For a complete list of monkeypox effective disinfectants you can visit the EPA's website at epa.gov. Lysol wipes which are commonly used in a school setting are among the lists.
A school's best defense is practicing a quality disinfecting process for all high traffic surfaces.
Pay careful attention to soft surfaces when disinfecting as pox viruses can live in linens and porous surfaces for upwards of 15 days.
Outdoor areas should require limited cleaning as the virus prefers cool, dry low humic places and is very sensitive to UV light.
Activities that could recirculate dried lesion material should be avoided after an area has been occupied with an infected person. This includes use of fans, dry dusting, sweeping, or vacuuming, unless when using a HEPA filtered MERV 13 and above vacuum.
Cleaning of a contaminated area requires use of the proper full body PPE equipment; it is preferable to use a professional cleaning service to handle the process carefully.
Careful consideration should be given to the trash of an infected area and disposed of according to CDC guidelines.



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#### **Online Resources**

Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC

Monkeypox (who.int)

What to know about monkeypox transmission, symptoms and vaccines - The Washington Post

Disinfectants for Emerging Viral Pathogens (EVPs): List Q | US EPA

school cleaning checklist

<u>Ultimate School Opening Cleaning Guide 2022</u>



Commercial Cleaning Corp offers emergency disinfectant services in the case of a Covid19 or Monkeypox outbreak.
Call us if you need assistance at 609-695-6255

