

CDC Definitions for Exposure and Use of PPE and Use of PEP in healthcare settings

Exposure risk assessment and public health recommendations for individuals exposed to a patient with monkeypox

Transmission of monkeypox requires prolonged close contact with a symptomatic individual. Brief interactions and those conducted using appropriate PPE in accordance with Standard Precautions are not high risk and generally do not warrant PEP (post exposure prophylaxis).

Degree of Exposure: High

Recommendations

- Monitoring[§]
- PEP[¶] – Recommended

Exposure Characteristics

- Unprotected contact between a person's skin or mucous membranes and the skin, lesions, or bodily fluids from a patient (e.g., any sexual contact, inadvertent splashes of patient saliva to the eyes or oral cavity of a person, ungloved contact with patient), or contaminated materials (e.g., linens, clothing) -OR-
- Being inside the patient's room or within 6 feet of a patient during any procedures that may create aerosols from oral secretions, skin lesions, or resuspension of dried exudates (e.g., shaking of soiled linens), without wearing an N95 or equivalent respirator (or higher) and eye protection -OR-
- Exposure that, at the discretion of public health authorities, was recategorized to this risk level (i.e., exposure that ordinarily would be considered a lower risk exposure, raised to this risk level because of unique circumstances)

Degree of Exposure: Intermediate

Recommendations

- Monitoring[§]
- PEP[¶] – Informed clinical decision making recommended on an individual basis to determine whether benefits of PEP outweigh risks ^{¶¶}

Exposure Characteristics

- Being within 6 feet for 3 hours or more of an unmasked patient without wearing, at a minimum, a surgical mask -OR-
- Activities resulting in contact between sleeves and other parts of an individual's clothing and the patient's skin lesions or bodily fluids, or their soiled linens or dressings (e.g.,

turning, bathing, or assisting with transfer) while wearing gloves but not wearing a gown -OR-

- Exposure that, at the discretion of public health authorities, was recategorized to this risk level because of unique circumstances (e.g., if the potential for an aerosol exposure is uncertain, public health authorities may choose to decrease risk level from high to intermediate)

Degree of Exposure: Low/Uncertain

Recommendations

- Monitoring[§]
- PEP[¶] – None

Exposure Characteristics

- Entered the patient room without wearing eye protection on one or more occasions, regardless of duration of exposure -OR-
- During all entries in the patient care area or room (except for during any procedures listed above in the high-risk category), wore gown, gloves, eye protection, and at minimum, a surgical mask -OR-
- Being within 6 feet of an unmasked patient for less than 3 hours without wearing at minimum, a surgical mask -OR-
- Exposure that, at the discretion of public health authorities, was recategorized to this risk level based on unique circumstances (e.g., uncertainty about whether Monkeypox virus was present on a surface and/or whether a person touched that surface)

Degree of Exposure: No Risk

Recommendations

- Monitoring[§] – None
- PEP[¶] – None

Exposure Characteristics

- Exposure that public health authorities deemed did not meet criteria for other risk categories

Reference: This information was taken directly from the CDC Website

Post Exposure prophylaxis - post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is recommended with an appropriate second- or third-generation vaccine, ideally within four days of first exposure to prevent onset of disease.

Reference: Vaccines and immunization for monkeypox: Interim guidance, 14 June 2022