



# Adams·Benton·Franklin·Yakima Counties

Kevin E. Hodges, M.D., FACEP  
EMS Medical Program Director



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## M E M O

Date: August 19, 2022  
To: All EMS Agencies/Providers in Adams, Benton, Franklin, and Yakima Counties  
From: Kevin Hodges, MD  
EMS Medical Program Director  
RE: Monkeypox Response and PPE

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Monkeypox Virus (MPV) is transmitted primarily by direct skin contact. Currently most of the cases are transmitted during sexual encounters. Often the primary and most prominent lesions are genital-anal-rectal-pharyngeal location with other skin lesions being more mild but still present. There is some remote concern that the virus can be spread via respiratory secretions / droplets, but this has not been prominent of transmission. The current epidemiology indicates that the vast majority of cases are among men who have had sex with men.

To protect ourselves and fellow EMS providers, the MPD office is issuing the following guidelines.

- Dispatch should relay any of the following patient symptoms to EMS providers as possible monkeypox patients:
  - Known or suspected Monkeypox infection
  - Undiagnosed rash present for <2 weeks.
- When responding to and/or caring for a patient with suspected or diagnosed Monkeypox Virus (MPV), the use of full PPE (mask, eyewear, gloves, and gown) is currently appropriate and provides the most protection
- If MPV is known or suspected, the EMS provider should cover the patient's skin with a sheet or blanket to the extent feasible and, as always, should apply a mask to the patient.
- For tracking purposes, please document in the patient care report narrative if the patient has the monkeypox virus or if the patient or EMS provider has a concern for monkeypox (MPV).

Sincerely,

Kevin Hodges, MD FACEP  
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