



# UTSW/Parkland BioTel EMS ALERT

July 16, 2021

## EMS ALERT 21-001: Monkeypox

The purpose of this Alert is to advise EMS professionals about monkeypox.

### ➤ Background:

- On July 16, 2021, the Dallas County Department of Health and Human Services (DCHHS), the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed a human case of monkeypox in Dallas County:
  - Contact tracing and other public health measures are underway in Dallas County and beyond
- What is monkeypox\*?
  - A rare disease caused by infection with monkeypox virus, with no specific treatment
  - It usually resolves after 2 to 4 weeks, although mortality MAY be up to 10% in untreated cases
  - Monkeypox is **NOT** smallpox, and it is neither as transmissible nor as deadly as smallpox
- [How does monkeypox spread?](#)
  - Monkeypox virus spreads through direct contact with the virus from an animal or human, or indirectly through materials contaminated with the virus, such as:
    - Most common: Large respiratory droplets (similar to influenza virus) via broken skin, respiratory tract or other mucous membranes
    - Less common: direct or indirect contact with body fluids or lesion material
  - Monkeypox virus is **NOT** spread by pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic infected persons
- EMS management includes infection prevention, supportive care, transport and BioTel notification

### ➤ EMS Action Items, Effective Immediately:

1. Consider the possibility that any person with symptoms of acute febrile illness<sup>‡</sup> may have COVID-19, influenza, [EV-D68](#) or another, more common viral or bacterial infection – monkeypox is much less likely:
  - <sup>‡</sup>Fever, chills, muscle aches, malaise, headache, swollen lymph nodes, skin rash
  - Obtain a detailed travel history, especially from West and Central Africa, in the past 3 weeks
2. Use current EMS protective measures (e.g. [PPE](#) and source control ([BioTel EMS Alert 20-006](#))):
  - Gloves, gown, eye protection and respiratory protection (N95 or higher)
  - Standard surgical mask for the patient and household contacts
  - Hand hygiene and standard apparatus/equipment disinfection procedures with EPA-registered virucidal products
3. **STRONGLY** encourage patients with acute febrile illness to accept EMS transport to an appropriate ED:
  - Transport refusals should be discussed online with a BioTel Physician and thoroughly documented
4. **Notify BioTel as soon as possible BEFORE hospital arrival when transporting any patient with symptoms of acute febrile illness and history of travel from Africa in the past 3 weeks**



[\\*CDC Monkeypox Web Page](#)  
(last reviewed 01/28/19)



\*Skin Rash  
(source: [PMID: 30848724](#))



\*Skin Rash  
(source: [WHO](#))



[BioTel PPE Guidance](#)

➤ Contact BioTel or the BioTel [Medical Direction Team](#) with questions or concerns