



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MONKEYPOX

Memphis-Shelby County Schools is mindful of the needs and concerns of our students, families, employees, and the larger community. The District closely monitors health developments and has proactively addressed issues related to our families and schools. As part of this work, Academic Operations & School Support (AOSS) and the Department of Exceptional Children & Health Services provide the District's practices and updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as national developments occur.

PREVENTION GUIDANCE FROM THE CDC

- Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox.
- Avoid contact with objects and materials that a person with monkeypox has used.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially before eating or touching your face and after you use the bathroom.

MEMPHIS-SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS WILL CONTINUE TO CONTACT, COMMUNICATE, AND COLLABORATE WITH THE SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR FURTHER DIRECTIONS AND GUIDELINES REGARDING MONKEYPOX.

CLEANING PROTOCOLS

implemented by MSCS Custodial Services to help prevent the spread of viruses in schools

- Disinfect high-touch areas daily
- Encourage and educate students and staff to wash hands (primary recommendation) and use sanitizer (secondary)

If an outbreak is identified:

- Notify and alert MSCS Custodial Operations, Risk Management, and Health Services
- Instruct custodial staff to clean, mop/vacuum, disinfect and sanitize effected areas
- As needed, submit work orders to specialized cleaning crews, e.g., pest control, to disinfect effected areas
- Monitor effected areas



LEE HARRIS
MAYOR

SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MICHELLE A. TAYLOR, MD, DrPH, MPA
HEALTH DIRECTOR

BRUCE RANDOLPH, MD, MPH
HEALTH OFFICER



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Shelby County Health Department

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Guidance from the Health Officer

Schools, Early Care and Education Programs, and Other Settings Serving Children or Adolescents

Source: [Schools, Early Care and Education Programs, and Other Settings Serving Children or Adolescents | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#)

At this time, the risk of monkeypox to children and adolescents in the United States is thought to be low. Monkeypox virus can infect anyone – including children – if they have close, personal, often skin-to-skin [contact](#) with someone who has monkeypox.

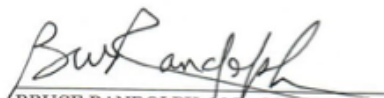
Shelby County Health Department advises teachers, school staff members, and parents/guardians to remain vigilant for the following:

- A new rash that can initially look like pimples or blisters and may be painful or itchy.
- The rash may go through several stages before scabbing over and healing.
- Other symptoms may include fatigue, headache, fever, and swollen lymph nodes.
- Contact the Shelby County Health Department if monkeypox is suspected in a student.

In this outbreak, most cases of monkeypox have been associated with sexual contact. Although less common in the current outbreak, monkeypox may also spread by touching contaminated objects (such as toys or eating utensils), fabrics (clothing, bedding, sleeping mats, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox.

For more information about monkeypox in school and daycare settings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/community/school-faq.html>.

Sincerely,



BRUCE RANDOLPH, M.D., M.P.H.
SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

Mission

To promote, protect and improve the health of ALL in Shelby County.