



Concerns: Persistent Mpox

People who have had mpox (also known as monkeypox) may experience persistent physical, psychological and social aftereffects.

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People who have had mpox (also known as monkeypox) may experience persistent physical, psychological and social aftereffects. Mpox, caused by a virus related to smallpox, is primarily transmitted via skin-to-skin contact, including sex. The global mpox outbreak that started in May 2022 reached more than 32,000 cases in the United States, resulting in 58 deaths. The characteristic sign is a rash, sometimes accompanied by flu-like symptoms; people with advanced HIV are more likely to develop severe illness. In an analysis of more than 150 people in New York City and Houston who contracted mpox during that outbreak, nearly 60% reported lasting physical aftereffects, such as skin discoloration or scarring, 13% reported ongoing effects on physical function, 45% reported increased depression and 49% said they had ongoing issues related to their social life up to 18 months later. Mpox continues to circulate at a low level in the United States, and health officials urge people at higher risk—including gay men—to get two doses of the Jynneos vaccine.

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