

APH customizable monkeypox exposure notification letter

[Date]

Dear Parent or Guardian:

[Insert School Name] considers the health and wellbeing of our students and staff a priority. A case of monkeypox has been identified in an individual at [Insert School Name]. **School staff, working in collaboration with Austin Public Health (APH), have determined that your child may have been exposed to the person with monkeypox on or around [Insert most recent date of possible exposure].**

Your child can continue to come to [school/child care], unless they develop symptoms of monkeypox.

[Insert name of school] advises you to take the following precautions recommended by APH:

- Monitor your child for symptoms of monkeypox
- Contact your child's healthcare provider to let them know they may have been exposed to someone with monkeypox. Your healthcare provider, in consultation with APH, can determine if your child may be eligible for vaccination. If your child does not have a healthcare provider call the APH Information Hotline at 512-972-5560.

Because your child was exposed to monkeypox, they should be monitored for [symptoms](#) for 21 days.

The symptoms of monkeypox are:

- Rash that may be painful or itchy (may look like pimples or blisters to start)
- Fever
- Chills
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Exhaustion
- Muscle aches and backache
- Headache

People may experience all or only a few symptoms. Others only experience a rash.

Some symptoms in young children may be difficult to recognize promptly. When monitoring a child for illness following exposure to monkeypox, parents and caregivers should check the child's temperature daily. Parents and caregivers should also perform daily full-body skin checks for a new rash and inspect the inside of the mouth for any sores or ulcers on young children.

In older children and adolescents, parents can help with inspection of the mouth and exposed skin areas that may be difficult for the child or adolescent to see (back of neck, arms, legs). They can also remind the child and adolescent to be aware of any rash or pain in areas covered by clothing, including the genitals, and to inspect those areas for rash and let the parent know if they notice any changes in their skin or feel any pain in those areas.

If your child develops symptoms, take the following steps:

- Have your child should stay home and isolate.

- Contact your child’s healthcare provider. Let the provider know your child has been exposed to monkeypox and since has developed symptoms. Ask if your child should be tested for monkeypox. Notify Austin Public Health by calling the APH Information Hotline at 512-972-5560. Let the APH hotline staff know if your child does not have a healthcare provider.
- Follow advice from APH and your child’s healthcare provider about when your child can return to [school/child care].
- Notify [Insert name of school] by contacting [Insert best contact name] and [Insert best method(s) of contact].

You can visit these websites for fact-based information about monkeypox:

- APH Monkeypox webpage, <https://www.austintexas.gov/monkeypox>
- CDC’s monkeypox Frequently Asked Questions page, <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/about/faq.html>
- CDC webpage on monkeypox for teens and young adults <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/community/teens-young-adults.html>

If you have questions, feel free to contact [Insert name of contact] at [Insert best contact method(s)].

Sincerely,

[NAME, TITLE, and CONTACT INFORMATION]

APH customizable monkeypox case notification letter for all families

[Date]

Dear Parent or Guardian:

[Insert School Name] considers the health and wellbeing of our students and staff a priority. With that in mind, we are sending this letter home for your awareness. A case of monkeypox has been identified in an individual at [Insert School Name].

[Insert school name] is following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Austin Public Health (APH) guidance to determine when a person with monkeypox can safely return to the school setting. In collaboration with APH, the people who were exposed to the person with monkeypox have been identified, notified, provided guidance, and advised to monitor for the development of symptoms. Most children can attend school and other school-related activities even if they have had close contact with someone with monkeypox.

All areas of the school where the person with monkeypox spent time are being cleaned and disinfected before being reopened for use. [If a classroom, school, or child care program needs to close to allow time to clean and disinfect before use, include information about that closure and the planned reopening date in this notification.]

Key things to know about monkeypox, per the CDC:

- It is possible for anyone to catch monkeypox if they have close, personal contact with an infected person. However, in general, the risk of monkeypox spreading in schools and early childhood settings is low.
- In the current global outbreak, monkeypox has been much less common among children, and infections have rarely been life-threatening.
- There is no need for widespread [vaccination](#) for monkeypox among children or staff at K-12 schools or early childhood settings, even when there is a case in a school or child care program.

The symptoms of monkeypox are:

- Rash that may be painful or itchy (may look like pimples or blisters to start)
- Fever
- Chills
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Exhaustion
- Muscle aches and backache
- Headache
- Respiratory symptoms (e.g. sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough)

People may experience all or only a few symptoms. Others only experience a rash.

As a reminder, please ensure your child stays home when they are sick. Those who have a rash, or other symptoms of monkeypox, or symptoms of other infectious illnesses are encouraged to visit a healthcare provider. People who do not have a healthcare provider can call the APH Information Hotline at 512-972-5560. Throughout this school year, we ask that you please inform [Insert name of school] by [Insert best method for notifying school] if your child:

- Develops any symptoms of monkeypox following an exposure to someone with monkeypox, or
- Is tested for monkeypox and determined to be a confirmed or probable case.

You can visit these websites for fact-based information about monkeypox:

- APH Monkeypox webpage, <https://www.austintexas.gov/monkeypox>
- CDC's monkeypox Frequently Asked Questions page, <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/about/faq.html>
- CDC webpage on monkeypox for teens and young adults <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/community/teens-young-adults.html>

If you have questions, feel free to contact us at [Insert best contact method(s)].

Sincerely,

[NAME, TITLE, and CONTACT INFORMATION]