# **5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MPOX**



#### WHAT IS IT?

Mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, is a disease caused by infection with the mpox virus. Mpox virus is part of the same family of viruses as the virus that causes smallpox.

People with mpox often get a rash that may be located on hands, feet, chest, face, or mouth or near the genitals. The rash can initially look like pimples and may be painful or itchy.

Other symptoms include fever, chills, exhaustion, muscle aches, and respiratory symptoms such as a sore throat or cough.

#### **HOW IS IT SPREAD?**

Mpox can spread to anyone through close, often skin-to-skin, contact or direct contact with mpox rash and scabs. This can happen during intimate contact, including oral, anal, or vaginal sex, hugging, kissing, and prolonged face-to-face contact.

### **WHO IS AT RISK?**

Anyone can get monkeypox, but men who have sex with men remain at the highest risk.

## WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Chicago has recently reported a new cluster of mpox cases. Additionally, mpox cases could rise during the summer, especially as individuals travel to Pride festivals and other major LGBTQ events.

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Vaccination is an important tool in preventing the spread of mpox. No vaccine is 100% effective, and infections after vaccination are possible, but they may be milder and less likely to result in hospitalization. Contact the **Florida Department of Health** to schedule both doses of the vaccine.

