



July 20, 2022

Northwest Kidney Centers' response to Monkeypox

To all Northwest Kidney Centers Staff,

This week, Northwest Kidney Centers received notification one of our patients was in the "suspicious category for possible Monkeypox." We have determined that the patient **does not** have Monkeypox.

Based on recent news of the detection of Monkeypox in our community, Northwest Kidney Centers was already in the process of developing a policy and protocol to treat patients who may have suspicious or confirmed infection. Because of this suspected case, we are expediting our work to document our safety protocol with the intent to keep our staff and patients safe and healthy.

COVID town halls will provide more information about our response. WebEx information for the town halls can be found on [K-Net](#).

What we know about Monkeypox

Monkeypox is a rare disease that is part of the same family of viruses as smallpox. It is rarely fatal. Symptom can include:

- Rash that can look like pimples or blisters
- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle aches and backache
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Chills
- Exhaustion

Monkeypox most frequently spreads through direct contact with the lesions associated with the rash. A person is only considered infectious if they have symptoms; the majority of people have both a fever and a rash. The infectious period lasts until the lesions are crusted over with new skin underneath. It is not aerosolized. There are two vaccines approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has very clear guidelines as to risk groups and exposure definitions.

For more information about Monkeypox, visit the [CDC website](#).

What you need to do

The transmission of this disease is preventable, and our patients will need your reassurance that we are confident in our ability to keep them safe. Thankfully the precautions we've

been taking to protect staff and patients from COVID-19 are consistent with the PPE needed to prevent the spread of Monkeypox. We will continue to dialyze patients with Monkeypox following our contact droplet precautions. Staff will be required to adhere to the following PPE standards:

- Gown and gloves must be changed with each interaction with the patient or their environment
- Wear a N95 fit tested respirator
- Use eye protection

A detailed policy for care of a patient with suspected or confirmed Monkeypox as well as cleaning procedures after we care for them is in progress and will be distributed shortly.

Our guiding principles

COVID-19 prepared us to quickly respond to changing public health situations and we will apply the same guiding principles in our response to Monkeypox:

1. Follow the science and provide the highest standards of care. We have good scientific data about this virus and its transmission.
2. We have an obligation to care for our patients and can safely do this. We want our patients to get their life-saving treatment.
3. Provide leadership through communication, education, assurance, transparency, support for patients and staff.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility. As new information emerges, we will provide updates.