



Information Regarding Monkeypox

Recently, the [World Health Organization](#) declared monkeypox a public health emergency of international concern. While there are no known cases of monkeypox on campus, we are preparing our community for the possibility of a small number of cases on campus. The current risk of monkeypox in the public is very low, based on information available. Below, you will find information and resources regarding monkeypox, as well as information on how Saint Leo University is preparing to respond in the event of cases on campus.

What is monkeypox?

Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. Monkeypox is part of the same family of viruses that cause smallpox. [Monkeypox symptoms](#) are similar to smallpox symptoms, but milder, and monkeypox is rarely fatal. Monkeypox might start with symptoms like the flu, with fever, low energy, swollen lymph nodes and general body aches. Within 1 to 3 days (sometimes longer) after the appearance of fever, the person can develop a rash or sores.

People with monkeypox may experience all or only a few of these symptoms. Most with monkeypox will develop the rash or sores. Two main strains of the monkeypox virus are known to exist; the milder strain is currently circulating. Monkeypox is not related to chickenpox.

How is monkeypox spread?

Monkeypox spreads primarily through direct contact with infectious sores, scabs, or body fluids, during intimate contact. Monkeypox can spread through touching materials used by a person with monkeypox that haven't been cleaned, such as clothing and bedding. It can also spread by respiratory secretions during prolonged, close, face-to-face contact. Monkeypox is not spread through casual brief conversations or walking by someone with monkeypox.

What to do if you have had an exposure or symptoms

If you have had an exposure, have symptoms you are concerned about, or need to speak with someone about your risk and you are a student, please reach out to the Student Health Center. Students can schedule appointments with their Student Health Center providers Monday-Friday through their Student Health Portal or speak with someone after-hours and weekends by calling the Student Health Center at (352) 588-8347. Telehealth is available 24/7. See below for directions.

Is there a vaccine?

Yes. Vaccination helps to protect against monkeypox when given before or shortly after an exposure. In the United States, JYNNEOS and ACAM2000 are two monkeypox vaccines currently available via the Strategic National Stockpile. At this time, the federal government has allocated a limited number of JYNNEOS vaccine doses to specific risk populations.

How is the campus preparing?

Student Health Center providers and staff have been trained in identifying monkeypox, and our laboratory is prepared to collect and send samples for testing. Saint Leo University continues to work closely with the Pasco County Department of Health to keep the campus prepared, informed and healthy.

We understand that news of a new infectious disease on top of the last few years of the COVID-19 pandemic can be concerning and result in feelings of anxiety and uncertainty. Campus mental health resources are available through the Counseling Center at (352) 588-TALK, 24/7..

More information

For additional information, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/faq.html>

The Saint Leo Health Center is committed to providing quality, professional medical care. Located in the Paul and Sarah Lehner Suite (Suite #100) inside the new Wellness Center, we provide full time primary care services to University Campus students. Saint Leo has a full time Nurse Practitioner and a Registered Nurse available Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. Appointments may be scheduled by calling (352) 588-8347 or by email at health.center@saintleo.edu. Appointments may also be made by booking online at <http://provider.kareo.com/patricia-murphy-2#?view=booking>.

Unforeseen emergencies can happen at any time or day. For that reason, University Campus students have FREE 24/7/365 virtual access to state licensed doctors through our partnership with Varsity Health and WellVia Telehealth. Look for the WellVia email sent to your university email in early September or visit <https://member.wellviasolutions.com/> or download the WellVia app to use this free service.