Prevent. Promote. Protect.
An advanced level accredited Health Center since 2015.

Cape Girardeau County Public Health Center

1121 Linden, P.O. Box 1839
Cape Girardeau, MO 63702 – 1839
www.capecountyhealth.com
Phone (573) 335-7846 Fax (573) 335-5909

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

Contact: Jane Wernsman, Director Cape Girardeau County Public Health Center
1121 Linden, PO Box 1839
Cape Girardeau, MO 63702
T: 573-335-7846 ext. 122/**F**: 573-335-5909
www.capecountyhealth.com

RELEASE FROM: Cape Girardeau County Public Health Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 25, 2022

Cape Girardeau County Public Health Center is closely monitoring the current Monkeypox clusters and would like to inform the public about the status of the situation and how it relates to Cape Girardeau County. Multiple clusters of Monkeypox cases have been reported and are being monitored throughout several countries. In the US there is currently one (1) confirmed case and eight (8) probable cases. There are no cases currently in Cape Girardeau County or in the state of Missouri. Monkeypox is a rare disease that was first discovered in 1958. Most cases of Monkeypox to date have occurred in countries other than the US; primarily in central and western African counties. It's not clear how people in the current clusters were exposed to monkeypox but data suggests that prolonged close contact with an infected individual is a significant risk factor for the disease. The virus enters the body through broken skin (even if not visible), respiratory tract, or the mucous membranes (eyes, nose, or mouth). Human-to-human transmission is thought to occur primarily through large respiratory droplets. Respiratory droplets generally cannot travel more than a few feet, so prolonged face-to-face contact is required. Other human-to-human methods of transmission include direct contact with body fluids or lesion material, and indirect contact with lesion material, such as through contaminated clothing or linens.

What people should know:

- Direct contact with an infected person or animal is required to contract Monkeypox. The incubation period can be up to 21 days.
- Respiratory transmission requires very close contact (virus particles do not stay suspended in the air).
- Individuals are not infectious prior to the onset of symptoms. Transmission occurs only after the onset of symptoms.
- Supportive or palliative care is typically sufficient for treatment of mild infections.
- If you experience symptoms of Monkeypox or have had an exposure to an individual that has confirmed infection please contact your healthcare provider to determine appropriate actions. Symptoms of Monkeypox include:
    - Fever, headache, muscle aches, and exhaustion.

- Within 1 to 3 days (sometimes longer) after the appearance of fever, individuals develop a rash, often beginning on the face then spreading to other parts of the body. The rash has a very characteristic appearance. For photos of rash please refer to the following website: https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/clinical-recognition.html.

Monkeypox is a rare viral illness. The virus does not spread easily between people; transmission can occur through contact with body fluids, monkeypox sores, items that have been contaminated with fluids or sores (clothing, bedding, etc.), or through respiratory droplets following prolonged face-to-face contact. Risk among residents of Cape Girardeau County at this time is low. Updates will be provided as the situation develops if risk assessments determine an increased risk in Cape Girardeau County.

###