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To: Area Media  
From: Hillary Aggertt

For Immediate Release

Woodford County Health Department Confirms First Probable Case of Monkeypox Virus in the Tri-County Area

Eureka, IL- The Woodford County Health Department (WCHD) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced today a single presumptive Monkeypox (MPV) case in a Woodford County resident. Initial testing was completed through a private lab. Based on initial epidemiologic characteristics and the positive orthopoxvirus results, health officials consider this a probable MPV infection.

Woodford County Health Department and IDPH are working closely to identify individuals with whom the patient may have been in contact while infectious. This contact tracing approach is appropriate given the nature and transmission of the virus. At this time, WCHD has not identified any additional cases in the county. To protect patient confidentiality, no further details relating to the patient will be disclosed.

The case remains isolated and at this time there is no indication there is a great risk of extensive local spread of the virus, as MPV does not spread as easily as COVID-19 virus. Person to person transmission is possible through close physical contact with body fluids, MPV sores, items that have been contaminated with fluids or sores (clothing, bedding, etc.), or through respiratory droplets following prolonged face-to-face contact.

MPV is a rare, but potentially serious viral illness, which belongs to the Orthopoxvirus family, and typically begins with flu-like symptoms and swelling of the lymph nodes and progresses to a rash on the face and body. Most infections last two to four weeks.

People who have a new or unexplained rash, sores, symptoms, or have a confirmed exposure should see a healthcare provider, remind them that the virus is circulating in the community, and avoid sex or being intimate with anyone until they have been seen. If a person or their partner has MPV, they should follow treatment and prevention recommendations outlined by their healthcare provider. Suspected cases may present with early flu-like symptoms and progress to lesions that may begin on one site on the body and spread to other parts. Illness could be clinically confused with a sexually transmitted infection like syphilis or herpes, or with varicella zoster virus.

As of August 11, 2022, CDC reports 10,768 total confirmed cases of orthopox/monkeypox across multiple states with 771 cases reported in Illinois.  
(<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/index.html>).

For more information about this virus, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/>

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