

Health, Safety, and Wellness at Bright Horizons



As you are aware, on August 4 the U.S. declared monkeypox a public health emergency. While confirmed positive cases of monkeypox have begun to rise across the country, the risk of children getting infected with monkeypox is low. Like with other infectious diseases, children and adolescents are more likely to be exposed to monkeypox if they live in or have recently traveled to a location with higher rates of infection.

Typically monkeypox presents with a rash, which can look similar to other rashes seen more commonly in children, such as those associated with chickenpox, allergic skin rashes, herpes, and hand, foot and mouth. Some additional monkeypox symptoms can include fever, lethargy, headache and even swollen glands.

Bright Horizons already has strict practices in place for addressing the presence of rashes. This includes notifying the parents and excluding the child. In order to return to the center after being excluded for a rash, the child will need to be cleared by their medical provider and then meet any additional return criteria, such as being fever free for 24 hours without the use of a fever reducer.

If the rash is diagnosed as a symptom of monkeypox, the center would also notify the local health department and follow its guidance. There can be a lengthy exclusion related to monkeypox as the lesions have to be cleared and new skin formed prior to the infected individual returning. The presence of any additional monkeypox symptoms could also result in a child being excluded and needing medical clearance to return.

As with other infectious illnesses, if there is a confirmed case of monkeypox within our centers, we would notify those impacted.

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Help us spread the word! We know that the best teacher talent often comes through referrals from those who know us best. If you know someone who has a passion for early childhood education, refer them for a teaching position today. Talk to your Center Director for more information.