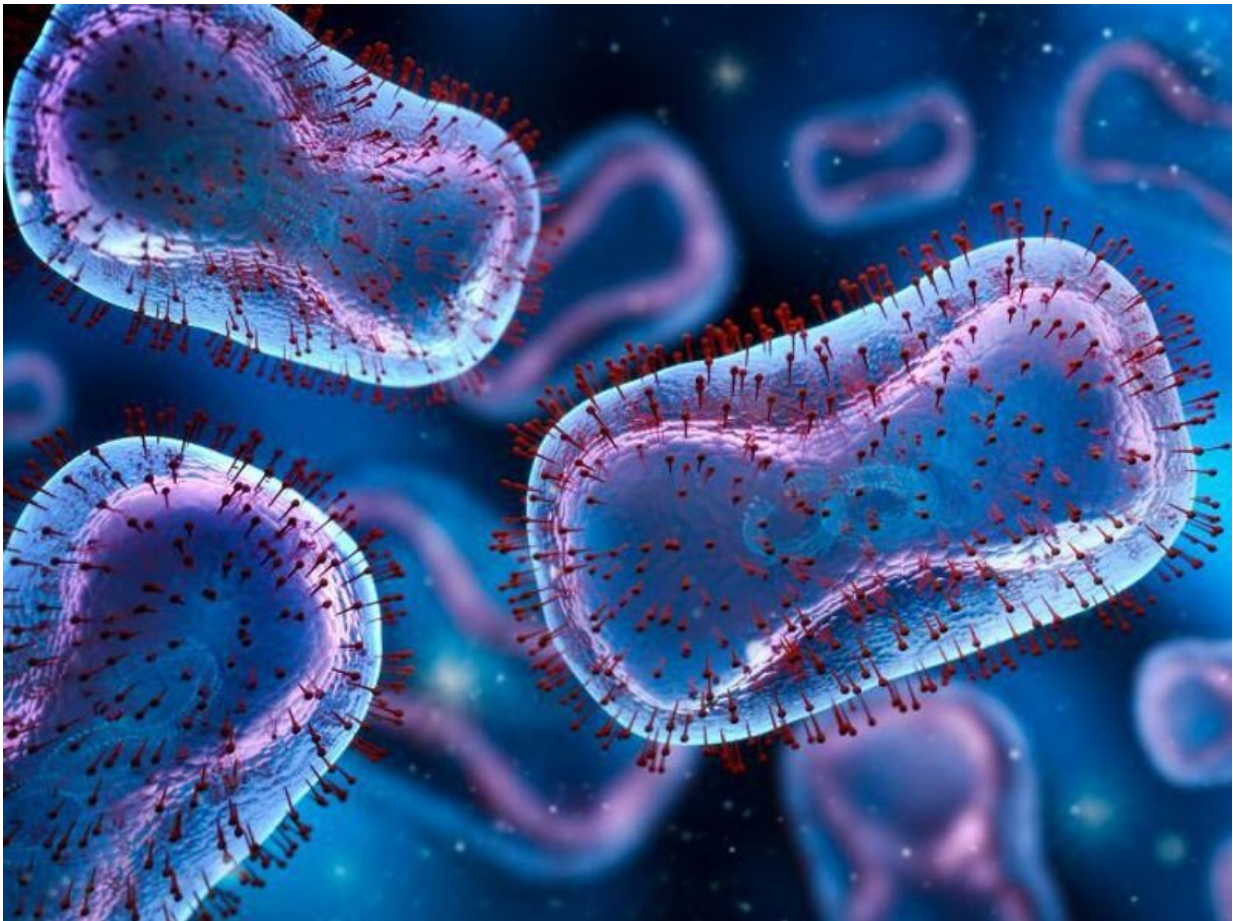


Fecal transplant treatments could transmit monkeypox, FDA warns

August 24 2022



[Fecal transplant treatments](#) could infect patients with monkeypox, the

U.S. Food and Drug Administration has warned.

Since May, an outbreak of monkeypox has been spreading in multiple countries, including the United States. Nearly 16,000 people in the United States have already been [infected](#) with the virus, which is transmitted through close physical contact with symptomatic individuals.

Monkeypox virus DNA has been found in rectal swabs and [stool samples](#) from infected people, the FDA said in its [alert](#), which was issued this week.

That includes one study where monkeypox virus was found in three people who reported no symptoms of the disease, the agency said.

"FDA is advising that clinical use of FMT [fecal microbiota for transplantation] has the potential to transmit [monkeypox virus](#)," the alert said.

As a result, the FDA has recommended donor screening for [clinical trials](#) involving [fecal transplants](#) if the studies involve stool donated on or after March 15, 2022.

Patients should also be informed of the monkeypox risk, the agency added.

Fecal transplants are used as a treatment for persistent [Clostridium difficile](#) infections, an opportunistic bacteria that can cause dangerous bouts of diarrhea and inflammation of the colon.

Nearly half a million *C. diff* infections are reported in the United States each year, according to the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). One in 11 people over 65 will die within one month of contracting *C. diff* in a health care setting.

More information: Johns Hopkins has more about [fecal transplants](#).

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Citation: Fecal transplant treatments could transmit monkeypox, FDA warns (2022, August 24)
retrieved 4 February 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-08-fecal-transplant-treatments-transmit-monkeypox.html>

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