

# Monkeypox case confirmed in U.S. resident, threat of spread is low

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(HealthDay)—A case of monkeypox has been confirmed in an American who had recently traveled to Nigeria, U.S. health officials reported. Officials believe the threat of the virus spreading to others is low.

Monkeypox is a rare but potentially serious viral illness that's in the same family of viruses as smallpox, but causes a milder infection, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It typically begins with flu-like illness and swelling of the lymph nodes, then progresses to a widespread rash on the face and body. Most infections last 2-4 weeks.

The infected person is now hospitalized in Dallas, the CDC said.

Officials are working to contact [airline passengers](#) and others who may have come into contact with the patient during two flights: Lagos, Nigeria, to

Atlanta on July 8, with arrival on July 9; and Atlanta to Dallas on July 9, the CDC said.

The passengers were required to wear masks on their flights and in the U.S. airports due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so it's believed that the risk of spread of [monkeypox](#) is believed to be low, the CDC said in a news release.

The strain of monkeypox in this case is one that's most commonly seen in parts of West Africa, and is fatal in about 1 in 100 people. But the risk can be higher in people with weakened immune systems.

Before this latest case, there have been at least six reported monkeypox cases in travelers returning from Nigeria (including cases in the United Kingdom, Israel and Singapore). This case is not related to any of these previous cases. In the United Kingdom, several additional monkeypox cases occurred in people who had contact with infected travelers, the CDC said.

It's believed that African rodents and [small mammals](#) spread the virus to people and other forest [animals](#) like monkeys. People can get monkeypox when they are bitten or scratched by an animal, prepare wild game, or have contact with an infected animal or animal products. Monkeypox can also spread between people through respiratory droplets or through contact with body fluids, monkeypox sores, or items that have been contaminated with fluids or sores. Most monkeypox outbreaks have occurred in Africa, the CDC said.

**More information:** Visit the CDC for more on [monkeypox](#).

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