



# KING'S COLLEGE

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## Monkeypox Health Advisory Updated August 11, 2022

King's College Student Health Center (SHC) continually monitors global and national health emergencies, outbreaks, and alerts. When necessary, SHC will provide health information notices to the College community. Due to the increased number of cases of monkeypox in the last two months—including, but not limited to, countries with prior low or no prevalence such as, Germany, Spain, and the United States—**SHC has prepared this health advisory.**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. Monkeypox virus is part of the same family of viruses as variola virus. It is not related to chickenpox. It is a treatable illness and rarely fatal. While monkeypox has an extremely low mortality rate, it is transmissible, and cases are rising in Pennsylvania.

**Symptoms** may include a flu-like presentation prior to or along with a rash. The skin lesions are blister and pimple like in appearance and can go through various stages prior to scabbing. Accompanying symptoms can include swollen lymph nodes, fever, chills, exhaustion, headache, and muscle aches. **Prevention** for individuals in congregate living situations include abstaining from close physical skin to skin contact, including kissing, touching, or sexual contact with others. Individuals should also avoid sharing clothing, towels, bedding, and kitchen utensils. Thorough hand washing and disinfecting surfaces and bedding if in contact with a monkeypox rash is helpful. For more, extensive information about symptoms, precautions, and prevention [visit the CDC website at cdc.gov/monkeypox](https://www.cdc.gov/monkeypox).

All SHC staff have thoroughly reviewed the presentation of this infection and are alert to the possibility of a case(s) on a college campus. Members of our College community should note the following:

- The CDC is tracking the monkeypox outbreak across several countries, including the United States.
- The monkeypox virus is [spreading mostly through close, intimate contact](#) with someone who has monkeypox.
- You can take steps to [prevent getting monkeypox](#) and lower your risk.
- [CDC recommends vaccination](#) for people who have been exposed to monkeypox and people who are at higher risk of being exposed to monkeypox. However, at this time, the vaccine is not easily available to acquire.
- Contact the SHC if you are at high risk or have any [symptoms of monkeypox](#). High risk includes individuals with close or intimate contact with an individual with monkeypox such as household contacts, multiple sexual partners, and immunocompromised persons with potential exposure. SHC will work closely with the Wilkes-Barre City Health Department and the Pennsylvania Department of Health to obtain resources and additional treatment options should the need arise.

### **Students with suspected exposure to monkeypox or who have a confirmed case will be asked to:**

1. Avoid close contact with others and contact the SHC and their primary health care provider as soon as possible.
2. Depart from campus to isolate and recuperate at home.
3. Cooperate with the College's contact tracing efforts to identify close contacts.
4. For resident students, obtain medical clearance to return to campus housing, which is required once all lesions have dried/healed.