

U.S. Monkeypox Outbreak: The Risk is Low – interview transcripts

SOT

Dr. Douglas Kasper, OSF HealthCare Infections Disease Physician

“Monkeypox lesions are infective when they are presently draining, or monkeypox can be infective by respiratory droplets. Respiratory droplets travel a very short distance. You would either have to be touching somebody, you would have to have face to face contact, or you would have to share towels or linens with them when they are acutely infective to have a significant exposure.” (:24)

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“While we don't want humans to get infected, we also don't want to establish a reservoir within animals, particularly rodents within our area. So we're looking to stop monkeypox infection so that people remain healthy, but we also don't want it to become endemic into our environment.” (:17)

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Dr. Douglas Kasper, OSF HealthCare Infections Disease Physician

“These are common things that have circulated and they're all exposure based. This falls in that same risk profile. Where SARS-CoV-2 was so different is that it spread incredibly quickly and it has modes of spread that include airborne, which means people who were not in direct contact or close contact could become infected. Underscoring monkeypox is really that intimate level of contact that's necessary for a very high risk exposure.” (:29)