What is my risk of Monkeypox?

Risk for exposure is categorized into the following tiers:

**High Risk**
Close contact with someone who has symptoms of monkeypox such as:
- Hugging, kissing, and cuddling
- Sexual contact
- Sharing items (e.g., bedding, towels, clothing)

**Medium Risk**
- Extended periods of close face-to-face interaction (e.g., breathing, coughing, talking) with someone who has symptoms without a mask
- Attending a crowded indoor event with non-fully clothed people

**Minimal Risk**
- Attending an outdoor event with fully clothed people
- Trying on clothes at the store
- Traveling in an airport, on a plane, or public transit
- Swimming in a pool, hot tub, or body of water
- Going to public areas (e.g., grocery store, restaurant, workplace, classroom, restroom)

What is my risk from touching surfaces or handling soiled linens?

Your risk is low with normal precautions
1. Always wear gloves when handling dirty linens or doing environmental services and cleaning.
2. Wash your hands regularly but especially before and after handling soiled items, eating, or wearing gloves.

What I need to do

- Don’t come to work if you are feeling sick or have an undiagnosed rash. Seek medical attention and guidance.
- Avoid being around others who are sick.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer regularly.
- Avoid contact with another person's rashes or lesions.
- Food Preparers and Housekeeping Staff - Wear protective gloves when:
  - Handling or preparing food.
  - Handling linens or doing environmental services.
- Wear a mask indoors.
- Contact EHS@usc.edu or (323) 442-2200 for more information.

References

- CDPH - Monkeypox
- CDPH - Monkeypox vs COVID-19
- CDPH - Monkeypox Risk
- CDC - Monkeypox: Home Disinfection
- LADPH - Monkeypox