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*“Working towards a healthy and safe Putnam County”*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Putnam County’s First case of Monkeypox**

Putnam County-The Putnam County Health Department (PCHD) has confirmed the first case of monkeypox in Putnam County. Monkeypox is a very rare disease in the United States and does not spread easily between people. Putnam County Health Department is working with the individual and all known close contacts have been notified. There is not a risk to the public. To protect patient privacy, no further case details will be provided.

Symptoms of monkeypox can include fever, headache, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes, and a rash that can look like pimples or blisters.

**To prevent the spread of monkeypox:**

- Practice good hand hygiene. For example, washing your hands with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Minimize skin-to-skin contact with individuals who have been exposed to the virus or to those showing a rash or skin sores.
- Avoid contact with any materials, such as bedding, that has been in direct contact with someone with monkeypox.
- Reach out to a health care provider if you develop symptoms, as early recognition and testing can help prevent further transmission.

Risk is low for the general public. More information about the virus and how to limit infection risk can be found on the monkeypox page on the CDC website.

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