1. What is monkeypox?
Monkeypox is a very rare disease caused by infection with monkeypox virus. It is usually found in Central and West Africa and does not occur naturally in the US. However, cases have occurred in the US, due to international travel or animals imported from areas where the disease is more common.

2. How does monkeypox spread?
Monkeypox does not spread easily from person to person. It can spread through contact with an infected animals or infected humans, or through contact with materials used by infected people (like clothing or linens). The virus typically enters the body through broken skin, respiratory droplets, or the mucous membranes (eyes, nose, or mouth).

3. What are the signs of monkeypox?
Early signs include fever, headache, muscle aches, backache, swollen lymph nodes, chills, and exhaustion. Disease symptoms always involve a rash which begins 1 to 3 days after the start of fever. The rash typically begins on the face and spreads to other parts of the body. Infections can last two to four weeks.

4. How is it treated?
There is currently no proven, safe treatment for monkeypox virus. Treatment is supportive, easing the symptoms of illness.

5. How can you prevent monkeypox?
Steps to help prevent monkeypox include:
- Avoid contact with animals that could have the virus (such as animals that are sick or that have been found dead)
- Avoid contact with materials, like bedding, that has been in contact with a sick animal or person infected with this virus
- Keep infected patients away from others
- Wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer after contact with infected animals or humans.

There is a vaccine that can prevent monkeypox and can be used, under certain circumstances, for the protection of people who are at high risk of exposure to this disease.

6. What is happening now with monkeypox?
Currently, there is an international outbreak occurring that is not associated with animals or travel to an area where this disease is more common. The LA County Dept. of Public Health is monitoring this situation and alerting healthcare providers. CDC is tracking clusters of monkeypox reported in May 2022 in several countries that don’t normally report monkeypox, including in Europe and North America. It’s not clear how these people were exposed to monkeypox. Currently, there are no cases of monkeypox in LA County.

7. What should I do if I think I may have monkeypox?
Please contact your healthcare provider if you believe you have signs or symptoms of monkeypox.

Key Messages:
- Monkeypox does not spread easily from person to person.
- There is currently no proven, safe treatment for monkeypox virus.
- To help prevent monkeypox avoid contact with animals that could have the virus, avoid contact with materials that have been in contact with a sick animal and practice good hand hygiene after contact with infected animals or humans.

Where can the public go for more information?
Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health
Monkeypox
publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/Monkeypox.htm

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Monkeypox
cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html