Monkeypox is spread through close contact with large respiratory droplets (kissing, sneezing, etc.), skin-to-skin contact with the sores, or through sharing items like bedsheets or clothes or with someone who has the virus. All three of these occur during sex, and the majority of cases in this outbreak have been spread during sex.

Anyone can get monkeypox if they come into close contact with an infected person. In this outbreak, the largest number of cases have been documented in sexual networks among men who have sex with men.

The community should take precautions and avoid prolonged skin-to-skin contact or intimate contact with anybody who has monkeypox.