Public Health Alert: Monkeypox Virus

What is Monkeypox?

- Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus.
- Symptoms of monkeypox can include fever, headache, body aches, and a rash that can look like pimples or blisters, that can appear on the face, inside the mouth, and on other parts of the body.
- Arizona has reported 41 cases of the monkeypox virus, including 3 in Pima County.

How is Monkeypox transmitted?

- Monkeypox is transmitted by symptomatic individuals through close contact with lesions, bodily fluids, or respiratory secretions and objects that have had contact with lesion crusts or bodily fluids.
- Having multiple or anonymous sexual partners may increase your chances for exposure to monkeypox.

Vaccination and testing:

- People who were exposed or have symptoms for monkeypox must consult with their healthcare provider.
- There is a vaccine, but it is not widely available at this time. If you are interested in the vaccine you can call the Pima County Health Department at 520-724-7797 for more information.

(Please note PYTHSD is not providing testing or vaccination for the Monkeypox virus at this time.)

Treatment & Prevention:

- There is no treatment that is approved for monkeypox virus infections. Antivirals developed for use in patients with smallpox may prove beneficial.
- Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox.
- Do not handle or touch the bedding, towels, or clothing of a person with monkeypox.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

For any questions, please contact Pascua Yaqui Community Health Nursing at 520-879-6119.