



## MPOX - SCIENCE

**News:** *Recently, the WHO (World Health Organisation) has Declared Global Health Emergency and sounded the highest alarm on the Monkeypox Virus.*

### What's in the news?

What does Declaring an Emergency for Global Health Mean?

Declaring a global emergency means the **monkeypox outbreak is an “extraordinary event”** that could spill over into more countries and requires a coordinated global response.

- **Elements helped consider Health Emergency:**
  - The virus has spread to **“non-endemic countries”**. This virus has spread rapidly to many countries that have not seen it before including Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and Kenya.
  - Three criteria for **declaring a public health emergency of international concern have been met** as per WHO.
    - The three criteria for such a declaration are that it is an **"Extraordinary Event,"** that it **"Constitutes a Public Health Risk"** to other States through the international spread of disease and that it **"potentially requires a coordinated international response."**
  - The number - within a month - has **grown five-fold.**
  - Scientific principles, evidence and other relevant information, are currently insufficient, leaving many unknowns.
  - The risk to **human health, international spread, and the potential for interference with international traffic.**
- **Previously Declared Emergency:**
  - WHO previously declared emergencies for public health crises such as the **Covid-19 pandemic, the 2014 West African Ebola outbreak, the Zika virus in Latin America in 2016** and the ongoing effort to eradicate **Polio.**
  - The emergency declaration mostly serves as a **plea to draw more global resources and attention to an outbreak.**

## MONKEYPOX

### About:

- Monkeypox is a **viral zoonotic disease with symptoms** similar to smallpox, although with less clinical severity.
- The infection was **first discovered in 1958 following two outbreaks of a pox-like disease in colonies of monkeys** kept for research — which led to the name ‘monkeypox’.

### Symptoms:

- Infected people break out in a rash that looks a lot like chicken pox. But the fever, malaise, and headache from Monkeypox are usually more severe than in chicken pox infection.



- In the early stage of the disease, **Monkeypox can be distinguished from smallpox because the lymph gland gets enlarged.**

## Transmission:

- Primary infection is through direct contact with the blood, bodily fluids, or cutaneous or mucosal lesions of an infected animal. Eating inadequately cooked meat of infected animals is also a risk factor.
- Human-to-human transmission can result from close contact with infected respiratory tract secretions, skin lesions of an infected person or objects recently contaminated by patient fluids or lesion materials.
- Transmission can also occur by inoculation or via the placenta (congenital monkeypox).

## Vulnerability:

- It spreads rapidly and can cause one out of ten deaths if infected.

## Treatment and Vaccine:

- There is no specific treatment or vaccine available for Monkeypox infection
  - But the **European Union** has recommended a **Small Pox Vaccine, Imvanex to treat** monkeypox after the WHO declared monkeypox a global health emergency.
- In recent years, there has been an **increase in mpox cases**, including the emergence of **new strains** such as **clade 1b**, which has spread to countries outside of its typical endemic regions.
- This led to the declaration of mpox as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) due to its potential for widespread impact.



## Mpox Virus (monkeypox) Prevention & Symptoms:

- Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with anyone who has a rash that looks like mpox



- Do not share bedding, towels, clothes or utensils with someone who may be infected



- Wash your hands often with soap & water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer



Muscle Aches



Swollen Lymph Nodes



Pustules Pox-Rash



Chills



Tiredness



Fever



Headache



### Mpox Vaccines:

MCHD is currently administering the mpox vaccine for those in higher-risk groups. Please call our Communicable Disease Clinic (309) 888-5435 & a staff member will complete a risk assessment and schedule you for a vaccine appointment if eligible

### If you have symptoms:

Contact your healthcare provider and ask about an evaluation and testing

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-health/why-latest-mpox-outbreak-is-emergency-of-international-concern-9516725/>

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