

Mpox

Mpox is a disease caused by Monkey Pox Virus (MPXV). It is a contagious infection that primarily spreads through close contact between individuals.

Mpox is also a zoonotic disease, transmitting from animals to humans too. MPXV is an enveloped virus, with double-stranded DNA. It belongs to the *Orthopoxvirus* genus in the Poxviridae family.

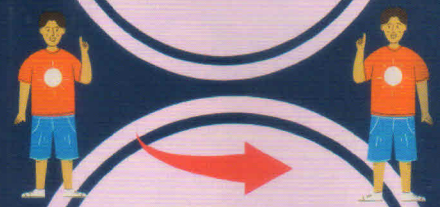
According to WHO, between January 2022 and August 2024, more than 120 countries have reported cases of MPOX, with over 100,000 confirmed cases, out of which over 220 people have died.

The Monkeypox was named after its initial discovery in monkeys in a Danish lab in 1958. The first human case was recorded in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In the year 2022, the World Health Organization considered replacing the term "Monkeypox" with "Mpox" to avoid racist and stigmatizing language.

WHO DG, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, declared the Mpox outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). In the release by WHO, Dr Tedros said, "The emergence of a new clade of Mpox, its rapid spread in eastern DRC, and the reporting of cases in several neighbouring countries are very worrying. On top of outbreaks of other Mpox clades in DRC and other countries in Africa, it's clear that a coordinated international response is needed to stop these outbreaks and save lives."



Mpox spreads through direct contact, bites or scratches by infected animals. It can also spread by consuming infected animals.



Mpox spreads through close contact such as skin-to-skin (touching or sexual), mouth-to-mouth, mouth-to-skin and face-to-face through infectious respiratory particles. It can also spread by touching clothes or bedding used by someone with mpox or through needle injuries in places like hospitals or tattoo shops.



If a pregnant woman gets mpox, the virus can sometimes pass to the baby. This can be very dangerous and might cause the baby to be born too early, not survive, or have other health problems. It can also make the woman sick.

Symptoms

- Illustration of a person with skin lesions: Skin lesions
- Illustration of a person with a fever: Fever
- Illustration of a person with fatigue: Fatigue
- Illustration of a person with a headache: Headache
- Illustration of a person with a sore throat: Sore throat
- Illustration of a person with back pain: Back pain

Higher risk groups: Newborns, children, pregnant females and people with advanced HIV or other severe immune deficiencies.