



# Mpox no Longer a Global Health Emergency: WHO

## Why in News?

The [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) has announced that **Mpox**, formerly known as [monkeypox](#), no longer constitutes a [global health emergency](#).

- Additionally, the WHO has recently announced that [Covid-19](#) no longer represents a "global health emergency".

## What Led to the Decision?

- The emergency committee for mpox recommended that the outbreak **no longer represents a public health emergency of international concern**.
- The committee's recommendation was based on a **decrease in reported cases** and a **robust response from countries** affected by the virus.

## What is Mpox?

- **About:**
  - Mpox 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.
- **Status:**
  - More than 87,000 cases of mpox and 140 deaths have been reported from 111 countries.
  - The past three months have seen almost **90% fewer cases reported compared to the previous three months**.
- **Treatment and Vaccine:**
  - Mpox is treated with **supportive care**. Vaccines and therapeutics developed for **smallpox** and **approved for use in some countries** can be used for mpox in some circumstances.
- **Ongoing Challenges:**
  - Despite the lifting of the global health emergency status, mpox continues to pose significant public health challenges.
    - A robust, proactive, and sustainable response is required to address the lingering impact of mpox and prevent future outbreaks.
    - Ensuring access to tests, vaccines, and treatments for those most in need remains

a crucial aspect of the response.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

**Q.** Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the Covid-19 pandemic. (2020)

**Source:** [HT](#)

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