



# Monkey B Virus

## Why in News

Recently, **China** has reported the **first human infection case with Monkey B virus (BV)**.

## Key Points

### ▪ About:

- Monkey B virus is an **alphaherpesvirus enzootic** (endemic) **in macaques** and it was initially **isolated in 1932**.
  - Alphaherpesviruses are pathogens or **neuroinvasive viruses** that establish lifelong **infections in the peripheral nervous system** of humans and many other vertebrates.
- B virus is also commonly referred to as **herpes B, herpesvirus simiae, and herpesvirus B**.
- B virus **can survive for hours on surfaces**, particularly when moist.

### ▪ Transmission:

- The infection **can be transmitted via direct contact and exchange of bodily secretions of monkeys** and has a **fatality rate of 70% to 80%**.
- **Human-to-human Transmission:** Till date, **only one case has been documented** of an infected person spreading B virus to another person.

### ▪ Symptoms:

- The **first indications** of B virus infection are typically **flu-like symptoms** such as fever and chills, muscle ache, fatigue and headache, following which an infected person **may develop small blisters** in the wound or area on the body that came in contact with the monkey.
- In the later stage, the virus can lead to the **loss of muscle coordination and neurological damage**.

### ▪ Treatment:

- Currently, there are **no vaccines** that can protect against B virus infection.
- **Timely antiviral medications** could help in reducing the risk to life.

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