



## WHO Declares Mpox a PHEIC

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The [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) has declared [mpox \(monkeypox\)](#), a [Public Health Emergency of International Concern \(PHEIC\)](#) due to a significant upsurge in cases, particularly in the [Democratic Republic of Congo \(DRC\)](#) and neighbouring African countries.

- The disease has been detected in 10 African nations this year, with over 96% of cases located in the DRC. The emergence of a **new virus strain, clade 1b, spreading mainly through sexual contact, is particularly concerning.**
  - The risk assessment of another clade (1a), which is spreading **mostly in children** through multiple modes of transmission, has also been considered to be high.
- The PHEIC designation is the **highest level of alarm under International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005)**, reflecting the disease's **potential to spread beyond Africa.**
  - This is the **second time in two years that mpox** has been declared a global emergency.
- Mpox is a viral illness caused by the monkeypox virus, a species of the genus **Orthopoxvirus**. Two different **clades exist: clade I and clade II.**
- **Symptoms:** Skin rash or mucosal lesions which can last 2-4 weeks accompanied by fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen lymph nodes.
- **Transmission:** It can be **transmitted to humans through physical contact** with someone who is infectious, with contaminated materials, or with infected animals.
- **Prevention:** Mpox can be prevented by avoiding physical contact with someone who has mpox. Vaccination, including the **JYNNEOS® vaccine**, can help protect those at risk.
- **Treatment:** Persons with mpox should be isolated. **Several antivirals, such as tecovirimat**, have been used to treat mpox, and further studies are underway

Read more: [Mpox Virus](#)

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