



## Rising Cases of Mpox in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The [Democratic Republic of the Congo \(DRC\)](#) has witnessed a significant increase in Monkeypox(**mpox**) cases, with 12,569 suspected cases and 581 deaths reported from January to November 2023.

- This surge in cases marks the highest number of annual infections ever recorded, according to the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#).
- The WHO has also highlighted a growing outbreak of mpox cases linked to [sexual transmission in the country](#).
  - Previously, no documented cases of sexual transmission were reported globally. However, the **first-ever confirmed case of sexual transmission was recorded in the DRC**.
- Monkeypox, caused by the **Monkeypox virus (MPXV)**, is a **viral zoonotic disease** endemic in densely forested regions of west, central, and east Africa.
- Symptoms include a severe rash, resembling chickenpox, accompanied by fever, malaise, and headache. Unlike smallpox, Monkeypox exhibits early lymph gland enlargement.
- There is **no specific treatment or vaccine available** for Monkeypox infection. In the past, the **anti-smallpox vaccine, once 85% effective**, is no longer widely accessible.

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Read more: [Monkeypox](#)

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