

## World on alert as deadly mpox virus spreads

19th August 2024



There is an outbreak of a new variant of the deadly mpox virus in parts of Africa. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a global health emergency. It has called for urgent action to curb the virus. The first instance of the

variant was found in Congo on the 1st of June. It has since spread to 13 African nations. On Thursday, Sweden reported a case. A day later, Pakistan confirmed it had a patient. The WHO said there have been more than 14,000 cases and 524 deaths this year. On Friday, Europe's Centre for Disease Prevention and Control said more imported cases of mpox were "highly likely". However, it said the chances of local outbreaks in Europe were "very low".

Mpox is primarily transmitted through close skin-to-skin contact with infected people or their contaminated clothes or bedsheets. It can also spread through close proximity to someone who sneezes or coughs. People can also catch it by talking or breathing too close to an infected person. The WHO says mpox is less contagious than Covid-19, which was an airborne virus. Common symptoms of mpox include rash, fever, and muscle aches. The rash develops into hundreds of pus-filled blisters, which may be itchy or painful. There are insufficient supplies of the mpox vaccine in Africa. Most supplies are stockpiled in the West as part of their own emergency preparedness.

Sources: [apnews.com](https://apnews.com) / [aljazeera.com](https://aljazeera.com) / [cnn.com](https://cnn.com)

### Writing

We will never be able to avoid pandemics. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

outbreak / mpox / WHO / virus / emergency / patient / disease / prevention / chances / skin-to-skin contact / infected / contagious / symptoms / rash / fever / ache / vaccine

### True / False

- 1) The outbreak of mpox in Africa is from a new variant of the virus. T / F
- 2) Mpox has spread to at least 13 African countries. T / F
- 3) Over 500 people in Africa have died from mpox this year. T / F
- 4) There is a very good chance of local outbreaks throughout Europe. T / F
- 5) It's possible to get mpox from other people's clothes. T / F
- 6) Mpox cannot be spread through the air. T / F
- 7) The WHO said mpox is far more contagious than Covid-19. T / F
- 8) There are insufficient supplies of the mpox vaccine around the world. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>outbreak</b>    | a. catching    |
| 2. <b>curb</b>        | b. possibility |
| 3. <b>confirmed</b>   | c. evolves     |
| 4. <b>cases</b>       | d. flare-up    |
| 5. <b>chances</b>     | e. amassed     |
| 6. <b>transmitted</b> | f. instances   |
| 7. <b>contagious</b>  | g. passed on   |
| 8. <b>infected</b>    | h. hold back   |
| 9. <b>develops</b>    | i. diseased    |
| 10. <b>stockpiled</b> | j. affirmed    |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you want to know about mpox?
- c) Will you be stocking up on masks?
- d) What are the differences between mpox and Covid-19?
- e) What do you think of the pictures you've seen of mpox?
- f) Should the West give its vaccines to Africa?
- g) How prepared do you think your country is for a pandemic?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the WHO?

## Phrase Match

- |                                             |                             |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. It has called for urgent action to       | a. were very low            |
| 2. The first instance of the variant        | b. proximity to someone     |
| 3. Pakistan confirmed                       | c. it had a patient         |
| 4. more imported cases of mpox were         | d. skin-to-skin contact     |
| 5. the chances of local outbreaks in Europe | e. curb the virus           |
| 6. transmitted through close                | f. contagious than Covid-19 |
| 7. contaminated                             | g. highly likely            |
| 8. close                                    | h. mpox vaccine             |
| 9. mpox is less                             | i. was found in Congo       |
| 10. There are insufficient supplies of the  | j. clothes                  |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about mpox?
- How worried are you about mpox?
- What action needs to be taken to curb mpox?
- What does a global health emergency do?
- Do you think mpox will get to your country?
- Do you see similarities between mpox and the start of Covid-19?
- What would you do if mpox entered your country?
- Are you prepared to accept possible lockdown again?

## Spelling

- a new iaavrtn of the deadly mpox virus
- declared a global health ecmynrgee
- urgent action to bcru the virus
- Pakistan confirmed it had a apeitnt
- more tmdoirpe cases of mpox
- local oteuakbrs
- mindacitaten clothes or bedsheets
- spread through close ioimxpyrt
- mpox is less cnouoatsqi than Covid-19
- the mpox vniecea
- Most supplies are tspclikode
- as part of their own emergency serpeaprdnes

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. h	3. j	4. f	5. f
6. g	7. a	8. i	9. c	10. e

## Role Play

### Role A – Mpox

You think mpox is the biggest global emergency that needs to be addressed. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crisis isn't as pressing. Also, tell the others which is the least urgent of these (and why): hospitals in Gaza, global obesity or mental health crises.

### Role B – Hospitals in Gaza

You think hospitals in Gaza is the biggest global emergency that needs to be addressed. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crisis isn't as pressing. Also, tell the others which is the least urgent of these (and why): mpox, global obesity or mental health crises.

### Role C – Global Obesity

You think global obesity is the biggest global emergency that needs to be addressed. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crisis isn't as pressing. Also, tell the others which is the least urgent of these (and why): hospitals in Gaza, mpox or mental health crises.

### Role D – Mental Health Crises

You think mental health crises is the biggest global emergency that needs to be addressed. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crisis isn't as pressing. Also, tell the others which is the least urgent of these (and why): hospitals in Gaza, global obesity or mpox.

## Speaking – Global Crises

Rank these with your partner. Put the ones in most need of addressing at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| • Mpox             | • Horn of Africa drought |
| • Cholera          | • Needed aid in Yemen    |
| • Global obesity   | • Mental health crises   |
| • Ukraine refugees | • Health needs in Gaza   |

### Answers – True False

1	T	2	T	3	T	4	F	5	T	6	F	7	F	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.