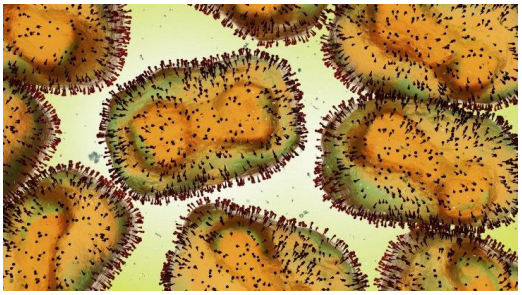
Mpox_DNA Dodgers

Monkeypox, now commonly called Mpox, is a viral infectious disease caused by the Mpox virus, part of the Orthopoxvirus family. Although historically rare, Mpox has recently gained global attention due to outbreaks outside its traditional regions. The virus can spread through close physical contact, contaminated materials, or animals that carry the virus, such as certain rodents.



Key Characteristics

- **Type of Pathogen:** Viral (Orthopoxvirus)
- **Primary Transmission:** Direct contact with lesions, bodily fluids, prolonged face-to-face respiratory exposure, or touching contaminated objects
- **Reservoirs:** Mainly rodents and small mammals; humans can also transmit it
- **Incubation Period:** Typically 5–21 days
- **Global Relevance:** Significant international outbreak occurred in 2022

How Mpox Affects the Body

Once the virus enters the body, it replicates at the entry site and then spreads through the bloodstream. This process causes:

- Fever and flu-like symptoms
- Swelling of lymph nodes

- A multi-stage rash that can affect the face, extremities, mouth, and genitals

In severe cases, the virus may cause secondary infections, dehydration, or complications affecting the eyes, lungs, or brain. Especially in children, pregnant individuals, or immunocompromised patients.

Common Signs and Symptoms

Symptoms often begin with a general feeling of being unwell, followed by a progression of the rash.

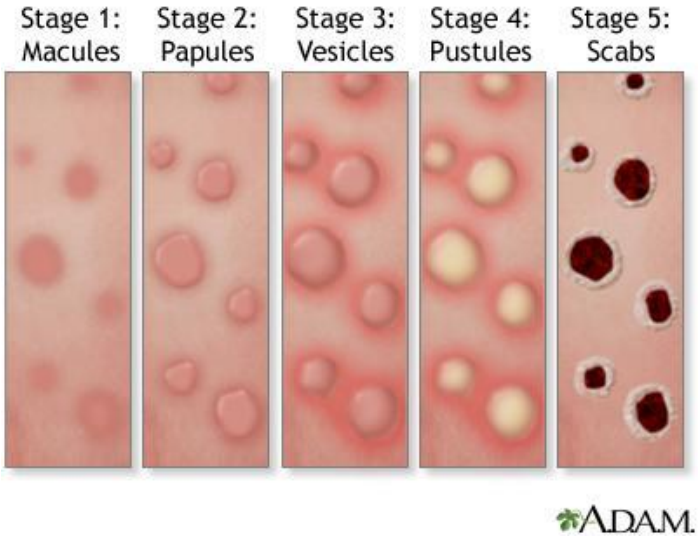
Early Symptoms

- Fever, chills
- Headache and muscle aches
- Fatigue
- Noticeable lymph node swelling (a hallmark feature)

Rash Progression

The rash evolves through several stages:

1. Flat spots (Macules)
2. Raised bumps (Papules)
3. Clear fluid–filled blisters (Vesicles)
4. Pus-filled pustules (Pustules)
5. Crusting and scabbing



Lesions may vary in number and can be painful or itchy.

Where Mpox Occurs

While Mpox was once primarily limited to Central and West Africa, international travel and close-contact transmission have led to cases in many countries worldwide. Recent outbreaks highlight the importance of understanding and monitoring emerging infectious diseases.

Treatment and Prevention

Although Mpox often resolves on its own within 2–4 weeks, medical care can ease symptoms and prevent complications.

Management includes:

- Pain and fever control
- Fluid support
- Monitoring for secondary infections

Medical options for severe cases:

- The antiviral medication **Tecovirimat (TPOXX)**
- Vaccines such as **JYNNEOS/Imvanex**, used for prevention or after exposure

Quick Facts

- Mpox is *related* to but less severe than smallpox
- The rash is the most recognizable symptom
- Most patients recover fully
- Vaccination can reduce the risk of infection or severe illness