

# What to know about the monkeypox virus

Monkeypox is a zoonotic virus, which transmits disease from animals to humans, with symptoms very similar to smallpox but less severe

## MONKEYPOX ORIGINS

- Discovered in 1958 in colonies of research monkeys. First human case identified in 1970 in Democratic Republic of Congo

- Occurs mostly in remote parts of Central and West Africa

- Virus has two main types – West African strain thought to be milder than Central African variant



## HUMAN-TO-HUMAN TRANSMISSION

- Via respiratory droplets – requires prolonged face-to-face contact

- Close contact with body fluids or lesions, or by touching contaminated clothing or bedding



## GENERAL SYMPTOMS

- **Incubation:** Time from infection to symptoms can range from 5-21 days

- **Initial illness:** Fever, headache, muscle aches, swellings, exhaustion

- **Itchy rash:** May develop on face, then spread to hands and feet

- **Lesions:** Go through various stages until scabs form and fall off. Lesions can cause scarring

- **Outcome:** Illness typically lasts for 2-4 weeks. In Africa, monkeypox has been shown to be fatal in up to 1 in 10 people who contract disease

- **Treatment:** Smallpox vaccine proven to be 85% effective against monkeypox. Antiviral drugs could help relieve symptoms