

# WHO declares Mpox global health emergency

The World Health Organization has declared the Mpox outbreak in Africa a public health emergency of international concern, with scientists worried about the rapid spread of a new variant

## WHAT IS MPOX?

■ Highly contagious disease – formerly called **monkeypox** – transmitted through close contact, such as sex, skin-to-skin contact and close breathing

■ Causes flu-like symptoms and skin lesions, and can be fatal, with four in 100 cases leading to death

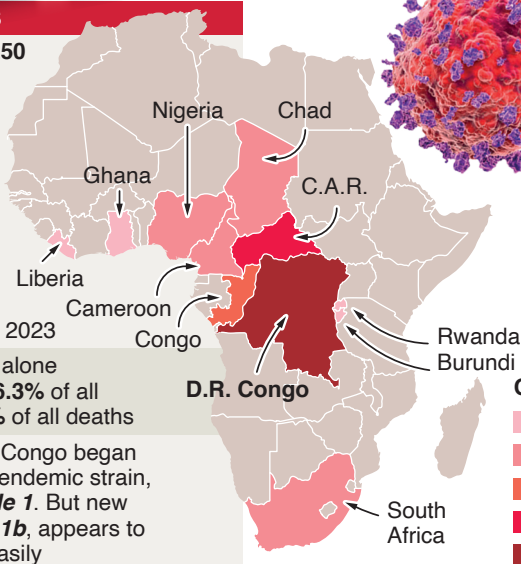
■ Africa CDC says it needs 10 million vaccines, but only 200,000 are available

## MPOX CASES

■ Total of **14,250** cases and **456** deaths reported between start of 2024 and end of July – **160%** increase in infections compared with same period in 2023

■ D.R. Congo alone accounts for **96.3%** of all cases and **97%** of all deaths

■ Outbreak in Congo began with spread of endemic strain, known as **Clade 1**. But new variant, **Clade 1b**, appears to spread more easily



Pictures: Newscom, NICD