

On finding of a suspect Monkeypox passenger at the Checkin/boarding gate, the concerned airline staff/crew members may further enquire or seek medical advice for the passenger. The alertness of the concerned officials/staff will help in the prevention of the further spread of this disease. It will certainly be beneficial in the larger Public Health interest of the country.

Key points about the disease:

- Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease that occurs primarily in tropical rainforest areas of Central and West Africa and is occasionally exported to other regions.
- Monkeypox typically presents clinically with **fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes** and may lead to a range of medical complications.
- Monkeypox is **usually a self-limited disease** with the symptoms lasting from 2 to 4 weeks. Severe cases can occur. **Case fatality rate may vary from 1-10%**
- Monkeypox **can be transmitted from Animal to Humans as well as human to human.**The virus enters the body through broken skin (even if not visible), respiratory tract, or the mucous membranes (eyes, nose, or mouth).
- Animal-to-human transmission may occur by bite or scratch, bush meat preparation, direct contact with body fluids or lesion material, or indirect contact with lesion material, such as through contaminated bedding.
- Human-to-human transmission is thought to occur primarily through large respiratory droplets generally requiring a prolonged close contact.
- It can also be transmitted through direct contact with body fluids or lesion material, and indirect contact with lesion material, such as through contaminated clothing or linens of an infected person.
- The clinical presentation of monkeypox resembles that of smallpox, a related orthopoxvirus infection which was declared eradicated worldwide in 1980. Monkeypox is less contagious than smallpox and causes less severe illness.
- **Incubation period is usually 7-14 days** but can range from 5-21 days and the person is usually not contagious during this period.
- An infected person may transmit the disease from 1-2 days before appearance of the rash and **remain contagious till all the scabs fall off.**
- Severe cases occur more commonly among children and are related to the extent of virus exposure, patient health status and nature of complications.
- Underlying immune deficiencies may lead to worse outcomes.
- Complications can include secondary infections, bronchopneumonia, sepsis, encephalitis, and infection of the cornea with ensuing loss of vision.

Confirmation of Monkeypox can be done using Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and is available at National Institute of Virology, Pune.

WHO update regarding Monkeypox Outbreak : [CLICK HERE](#)