DISEASE OUTBREAK NEWS (DONs)

Latest WHO Disease Outbreak News (DONs), providing information on confirmed acute public health events or potential events of concern.



Monkeypox - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

On arrival in the United Kingdom, the patient remained in quarantine with family due to COVID-19 restrictions. On 10 May, the patient developed a rash, beginning on the face. The patient remained in self-isolation for a further ten days and sought medical care for relief of symptoms.



The health authorities of the United Kingdom activated an incident management team and implemented public health measures, including isolation of the index case and secondary case and contact tracing of all close contacts in the hospital and community

Samples taken from people and animals with suspected monkeypox virus infection should be handled by trained staff working in suitably equipped laboratories.



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WHO disease outbreak news

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PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE

The health authorities of the United Kingdom activated an incident management team and implemented public health measures, including isolation of the index case and secondary case and contact tracing of all close contacts in the hospital and community.
Follow up is being undertaken for the contacts of the two cases for 21 days after their last exposure. No close contacts have travelled outside the United Kingdom following exposure. Post-exposure vaccination was not offered to contacts. The animal reservoir remains unknown, although it is likely to be among rodents. Contact with live and dead animals through hunting and consumption of wild game or bush meat are known risk factors. Populations worldwide under the age of 40 or 50 years no longer benefit from the protection afforded by prior smallpox vaccination programmes.

Residents and travelers to endemic countries should avoid contact with sick, dead or live animals that could harbor monkeypox virus

Monkeypox is a sylvatic zoonosis with incidental human infections that usually occur sporadically in forested parts of Central and West Africa.

WHO advice:

- ☐ Any illness during travel or upon return should be reported to a health professional, including information about all recent travel and immunization history
- ☐ A patient with monkeypox should be isolated during the infectious period, that is during the rash stage of the illness, and contacts should be observed in quarantine
- ☐ Health-care workers caring for patients with suspected or confirmed monkeypox should implement standard, contact and droplet infection control precautions.

Timely contact tracing, surveillance measures and raising awareness of imported emerging diseases among health care providers are essential parts

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Information was shared with the Nigerian National IHR Focal Point who have initiated an outbreak investigation and are gathering further information regarding potential source of infection and exposures in Nigeria.

It is caused by the monkeypox virus and belongs to the Orthopoxvirus family. Monkeypox can be transmitted by contact and droplet exposure via exhaled large droplets. The incubation period of monkeypox is usually from 6 to 13 days but can range from 5 to 21 days. The disease is often self-limiting with symptoms usually resolving spontaneously within 14-21 days. Symptoms can be mild or severe, and lesions can be very itchy or painful. Milder cases of monkeypox may go unreported and represent a risk of person-to-person transmission.

P: 080 969 787
A: Pink Street 45, NY
W: www.publishealth.com
E: publishealth@email