

WHO Fears Monkeypox Cases Might Increase in Summer

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. detect /dɪ'tekt/ (verb) to notice something that is partly hidden or not clear, or to discover something, especially using a special method
Example: Some sounds cannot be detected by the human ear.
2. transmission /trænz'mɪʃ.ən/ (noun) the process of passing something from one person or place to another
Example: The guidelines focus on preventing the transmission of infectious animal diseases to humans.
3. accelerate /ək'sel.ə.reɪt/ (verb) to happen or make something happen sooner or faster
Example: They use special chemicals to accelerate the growth of crops.
4. rodent /'rəʊ.dənt/ (noun) any of various small mammals with large, sharp front teeth, such as mice and rats
Example: They expect to catch rodents, mostly mice.
5. reassuring /,riː.ə'ʃʊː.rɪŋ/ (adjective) making you feel less worried
Example: He smiled at me in a reassuring way.



The idiom, "it never rains, but it pours" explains how one difficult situation tends to quickly follow another. Just as COVID-19 is being dealt with successfully around the world, another potential threat is increasing. As of the time of this writing, WHO has reported 120 worldwide cases of the rare monkeypox virus. It has been **detected** across Europe, the USA, Canada and Australia.

The WHO said it could spread further in the coming months. A WHO spokesperson said: "As we enter the summer season, with mass gatherings, festivals and parties, I am concerned that **transmission** could **accelerate**".

The death rate from monkeypox is low and most cases are mild. Symptoms include chills, fever, muscle aches, exhaustion and a nasty rash. The symptoms usually end within four weeks. Monkeypox was first detected in monkeys in 1958. It is transmitted from wild animals such as **rodents** to people. It can also spread from person to person. The virus is related to the smallpox virus.

Scientists say a smallpox vaccine is 85 percent effective against the monkeypox virus. Despite this **reassuring** figure, virologists around the globe are on high alert and are tracking the spread of cases.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What should governments be doing about monkeypox?
2. Why has monkeypox been spreading?
3. What do you think of the symptoms of monkeypox?
4. Should we be trying to reduce rodent populations?
5. Would you have a smallpox vaccine?