

Monkeypox, 37 countries, and 2525 total confirmed cases, a new challenge for the world

Esmaeil Fattahi¹, Hadis Barati²

¹Department of Health Education and Promotion, School of Health, Guilan University of Medical Sciences (GUMS) - Rasht, Iran

²Department of Epidemiology of School of Public Health and Safety, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (SBUMS) - Tehran, Iran

Based on June 18, 2022, CDC report with 37 countries and 2,525 confirmed cases of monkeypox¹, it now appears that we need to be vigilant.

The United Kingdom with 574 confirmed cases and Spain with 497 confirmed cases, Germany with 338 confirmed cases, as well as Portugal with 276 confirmed cases, and France with 183 confirmed cases¹ are the 5 countries on the European continent with the highest number of definitive patients in the world².

Given these countries' adequate health care systems, what could be the reason for this high statistic? Some researchers have argued that travel is an important reason³, which may not yet be a definitive reason given most people with the disease have never traveled to endemic areas of Africa. Some other researchers also see the reduction in herd immunity following the eradication of smallpox and the lack of smallpox vaccination as important factors in recent decades. Hypotheses regarding sexual transmission have not yet been proven³. The important question that arises is whether the monkeypox virus has a new transmission route that we are not aware of. What can be deduced from the world map on the spread of the virus is gradually increasing, albeit at a slower pace than the spread of the coronavirus. However, the World Health Organization has only recommended masking for people in close contact with patients, and this disease is not among the World Health Organization's travel warnings⁴. Canada and the United States do, with 168 and 112 confirmed cases, respectively¹. The uptrend in North America appears to be the same as in Europe. In South America, Brazil has been affected with 6 cases, Argentina with 3 cases, and Venezuela with one definitive case. In Asia, there are 13 definite cases in the United Arab Emirates, suggesting the possibility of an outbreak in some Asian countries. As of May 1, 2022, the Democratic Republic of the Congo had 57 deaths and Nigeria recently reported one death⁴. It seems that health officials should be more vigilant about monkeypox and not neglect it due to the slow spread of the disease. With eight definitive cases in Australia, it can be concluded that the virus has reached almost every continent, although we have seen it spread slowly. We need special tests and more comprehensive studies to better understand the behavior of this virus.

How to cite this article: Fattahi, Barati. Monkeypox, 37 countries, and 2525 total confirmed cases, a new challenge for the world. *ABCS Health Sci.* 2022;47:e022102 <https://doi.org/10.7322/abcshs.2022089.2174>

Corresponding author: Hadis Barati - Department of Epidemiology of School of Public Health and Safety, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran - E-mail: hbarati7@gmail.com, h.barati@sbmu.ac.ir

Declaration of interests: nothing to declare



This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License
© 2022 The authors

REFERENCES

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2022 Monkeypox and Orthopoxvirus Outbreak Global Map. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/world-map.html>
2. Mahase E. Monkeypox: What do we know about the outbreaks in Europe and North America? *BMJ*. 2022;377:01274. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.o1274>
3. Kozlov M. Monkeypox goes global: why scientists are on alert. *Nature*. 2022;606(7912):15-6. <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-022-01421-8>
4. World health Organization (WHO). Multi-country monkeypox outbreak: situation update. Available from: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2022-DON393>