

Spain, Brazil report first monkeypox-related deaths outside Africa

30 July 2022



A smallpox vaccine from Danish drug maker Bavarian Nordic has also been found to protect against monkeypox.

Spain and Brazil reported their first monkeypox-related deaths on Friday, marking what are thought to be the first fatalities linked to the current outbreak outside of Africa.

Spain is one of the world's worst-hit countries, with 4,298 people there infected with the virus, according to the health ministry's emergency and alert coordination centre.

"Of the 3,750 (monkeypox) patients with available information, 120 cases were hospitalised (3.2 percent) and one case has died," the centre said in a report.

An official would not give the specific cause of death for the fatality pending the outcome of an autopsy.

In Brazil a 41-year-old man died of monkeypox, [local authorities](#) said on Friday.

The man, who local media said had serious

immune system problems, died on Thursday in Belo Horizonte, the capital of the southeastern Minas Gerais state.

He "was receiving [hospital treatment](#) for other serious conditions", the state health ministry said in a statement.

"It is important to underline that he had serious co-morbidities, so as not to spread panic in the population. The death rate is very low" for monkeypox, said Minas Gerais health secretary Fabio Baccheretti, who added that the patient was undergoing [cancer treatment](#).

Monkeypox



A member of the *Orthopoxvirus* genus, which includes smallpox

Current outbreaks

As of July 29

- ▶ More than 18,000 confirmed cases reported to WHO
- ▶ In 78 countries across 5 WHO regions

WHO removed the distinction between endemic and non-endemic countries on June 18

- **Previously non-endemic countries with confirmed cases**



Previously considered endemic

Source: ECDC/WHO/UN/CDC



Factfile on the current outbreak of monkeypox around the world, as of July 29.

Brazil's [health ministry](#) has recorded close to 1,000 monkeypox cases, mostly in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro states, which are also in the country's southeast.

Early signs of the disease include a [high fever](#), swollen lymph glands and a chickenpox-like rash.

The World Health Organization (WHO) last Saturday declared the monkeypox outbreak a global health emergency.

According to the WHO, more than 18,000 cases have been detected throughout the world outside of Africa since the beginning of May.

The disease has been detected in 78 countries, with 70 percent of cases found in Europe and 25 percent in the Americas, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Wednesday.

As cases surge globally, the WHO on Wednesday called on the group currently most affected by the virus—men who have sex with men—to limit their [sexual partners](#).

Ghebreyesus told reporters that the best way to protect against infection was "to reduce the risk of exposure".

"For men who have sex with men, this includes, for the moment, reducing your number of sexual partners, reconsidering sex with new partners, and exchanging contact details with any new partners to enable follow-up if needed," he said.

The disease usually heals by itself after two to three weeks, sometimes taking a month.

A smallpox vaccine from Danish drug maker Bavarian Nordic, marketed under the name Jynneos in the United States and Imvanex in Europe, has also been found to protect against monkeypox.

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A global health emergency

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