

## **HEALTH ALERT.**

The World Health Organization (WHO) and African Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (ACDCP) have declared Mpox a public health emergency of international concern. The situation is dire, with over 120 countries confirming more than 103,000 cases since the onset of the global outbreak in 2022. In 2024 alone, there were 25,237 suspected and confirmed cases and 723 deaths from different outbreaks in 14 countries of the African Region. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is experiencing a rapid spread, with more than 18,000 reported cases and 600 deaths.

The Embassy of the Republic of Uganda in DRC informs all Ugandans living in DRC that anyone, regardless of age or gender, can contact Mpox through: -

- Contact with infected persons through touch, kissing or sexual intercourse.
- Contact with infected material, such as contaminated sheets, clothes and needles.
- Infected pregnant women who may pass the virus on to their unborn baby.
- Contact with infected animals (squirrels, rats, mice and monkeys) when hunting, skinning or cooking them.

### **One can protect one's self from Mpox by: -**

- Using the MVA-BN vaccine. WHO prequalifies this vaccine as beneficial in the context of a Mpox outbreak for persons at high risk of exposure. While MVA-BN is currently not licensed for persons under 18, it's important to note that this vaccine may be "off-label" in infants, children and adolescents, and pregnant and immunocompromised people
- Avoid close contact with people who have been confirmed to have Mpox or who have signs and symptoms of Mpox.
- Avoid touching or sharing personal items like bedding, eating utensils, clothes, phones, or other belongings of a person who has signs and symptoms of Mpox.
- Avoid contact with all wild animals (alive or dead), especially those known to carry the virus, such as rodents or monkeys.
- Avoid eating wild animals (squirrels, rats, mice and monkeys).
- In case of any symptoms, please Seek immediate medical attention.

It's important to note that the smallpox vaccine can be given to those who come into close contact with infected persons or those at high risk of infection. This vaccine is a crucial tool in our fight against Mpox.

Even after this declaration from WHO and ACDCP, there are no travel restrictions on Mpox.

For more information, please visit the Embassy's website at <https://kinshasa.mofa.go.ug/> or call +243-810519260.

Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo

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