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Title:	**Monkeypox in Delhi, patient has no foreign travel history**
Action By CSU, IDSP –NCDC	Information communicated to SSU- Delhi

Delhi reported its first monkeypox case, and India's fourth, on Sunday with a 34-year-old man testing positive for the virus that is spreading across the world. The patient, a resident of west Delhi's Paschim Vihar has no history of travel to countries affected by the disease, unlike the three cases reported from Kerala, officials said.

ONE CONTACT ALSO SHOWING SYMPTOMS

➤ 34-year-old Delhi patient, resident of Paschim Vihar, had gone to Himachal last month with friends. He returned with fever

➤ Among the patient's contacts, 1 showing monkeypox symptoms has been advised to isolate. Others being monitored

➤ This is the 4th confirmed case in the country. The other 3 were detected in Kerala, all with overseas travel history

LIKE SMALLPOX BUT MILDER

➤ Monkeypox caused by same family of virus as smallpox. Symptoms are **similar but milder**, and rarely fatal. It isn't related to chickenpox

➤ Monkeypox is **less contagious** than Covid. Spreads through **direct contact** with infectious rash, scabs & body fluids, or by respiratory secretions in prolonged or intimate contact. Can spread by **touching infected items**

The man had taken a holiday to Himachal Pradesh last month with male friends. Soon after, he developed fever but ignored the symptoms initially thinking it was caused by seasonal changes, sources said.

However, when the fever didn't subside for a week and skin lesions appeared at several places, the man visited a physician and a skin specialist before being referred to Lok Nayak hospital - the designated centre for isolation and management of suspected and confirmed cases of monkeypox in the capital.

Monkeypox: Officials track contacts of delhi patient
A 34-year-old man, who is the first confirmed case of monkeypox in the city, has been admitted at the Lok Nayak hospital for the past three days with fever and skin eruptions.

"We took his skin lesion and blood samples and sent these to the National Institute of Virology, Pune for confirmation. It has come positive for monkeypox," said Dr Suresh Kumar, medical director of Lok Nayak hospital. He added that the patient was stable and he was being given symptomatic treatment.

Meanwhile, another team of health officials are tracking everyone the patient came in contact with over the past few days and isolating those with disease symptoms.

"We have identified nearly a dozen persons who had come in contact with the patient over the last few days. One of them has symptoms and he has been advised isolation and testing. The rest are going to be under surveillance for at least two to three weeks," said an official from the state health department.

Monkeypox is a disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. Globally, more than 16,000 cases of the disease have been reported over the last seven months. Five people have died due to it, the World Health Organisation has confirmed. The UN Health body on Saturday declared monkeypox a "public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).

"Context matters: In the past dozen years, there have been six other similar PHEIC declarations; 2009 Swine flu, 2014 Polio, 2014 Ebola, 2015 Zika, 2018 K Ebola, 2019 Covid. Point: Not all PHEICs become pandemics. But it's the right precautionary step by WHO," Dr Faheem Younus, the chief of infectious diseases at the University of Maryland, US, wrote on Twitter.

Monkeypox was first identified in humans in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the

Congo. But for nearly 50 years after that, few cases of the viral illness were reported from outside the African regions where it is endemic. That's why the sudden spread of the disease to Europe, the US, UK and middle-eastern countries among others has left the health experts alarmed. The US on Sunday reported two cases involving children, one of them only eight-years-old. "Disease surveillance needs to be stepped up. We need to make physicians aware of the key symptoms of the disease, for example skin lesions, for early diagnosis and to prevent the disease from spreading among household contacts," Dr Arun Gupta, president of the Delhi Medical Council said.