



District Isolation Facilities for Mpox

Why in News?

Recently, The **Haryana health department** instructed all districts to be highly vigilant for [Mpox](#). They stressed the significance of **educating healthcare workers and carrying out screening** of suspected [measles cases](#).

Key Points

- The screening is to be conducted through focused surveillance for locations identified by the [National AIDS Control Organisation \(NACO\)](#) for **men who have sex with men and female sex workers**, as well as through hospital-based surveillance in dermatology clinics, STD clinics, medicine, and pediatrics outpatient departments.
- The department has advised all districts to identify isolation facilities and appoint nodal officers for effective patient management.
- All hospitals have been directed to remain alert, and if they encounter any suspected cases, they are to notify [the integrated disease surveillance programme \(IDSP\) unit](#).
 - The **incubation period for those infected is typically 7 to 14 days, but it can also range from 5 to 21 days**, and the **patient is usually contagious during this period**.

Mpox

- Mpox, also known as monkeypox, is a [DNA virus](#). It belongs to the **family Poxviridae**, which consists of large, **double-stranded DNA** viruses.
 - The virus was **first identified in monkeys in 1958** but has since been found to **infect humans as well**.
- **Transmission:** Mpox is primarily transmitted to humans **from animals**, particularly **rodents and primates**, through direct contact or through contaminated objects.
- **Symptoms:** Mpox infection in humans typically presents with **fever, headache, muscle aches**, and a characteristic rash that progresses from macules to papules to vesicles and pustules.
- **Vaccination:** While a vaccine for mpox exists, its **availability and effectiveness are limited**, highlighting the need for improved prevention and control measures.

The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO)

- It is a **division of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** that provides **leadership to [HIV/AIDS](#) control programme in India** through **35 HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Societies**.
- NACO has played a **very big role in significantly reducing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the country** and that too faster than the global rates.

