News Buddy

猴痘蔓延14國 世衞：不尋常需警惕

WHO calls for vigilance against rare monkeypox outbreak in 14 countries

原文

下文摘錄自5月22日香港《文匯報》：

猴痘（monkeypox）病例在全球各地持續蔓延，世界衛生組織（World Health Organization）前日召開專家和技術諮詢小組緊急會議，討論全球猴痘相關信息及應對方案，世衞表示，近期已接到多個國家報告累計約80宗猴痘病例，另有50宗病例待確認，認為猴痘先前在中非和西非較為常見，現時在多個非猴痘流行的國家發現猴痘病例屬於「非典型」情況，形容情況不尋常，呼籲各地加強警惕（vigilant）。據媒體報道，截至昨日已有14國出現確診或疑似個案。

目前歐洲至少有9個國家傳出猴痘疫情，分別為比利時（Belgium）、法國（France）、德國（Germany）、意大利（Italy）、荷蘭（Netherlands）、葡萄牙（Portugal）、西班牙（Spain）、瑞典（Sweden）和英國（United Kingdom），德國形容這是歐洲歷來爆發最大規模的猴痘疫情。

此外，美國（United States）、加拿大（Canada）和澳洲（Australia）也傳出猴痘病例。據報荷蘭和以色列（Israel）亦錄得病例，總數增至逾140宗。

世衞在其網站上發聲明表示，猴痘一般在一些國家的某些動物種群中流行（endemic），偶爾導致當地居民和旅遊人士感染。近期有十多個國家發現猴痘病例是「非典型的」（atypical），原因是這些病例都發生在非猴痘流行的國家，世衞將繼續召開專家和技術諮詢小組會議，分享相關疾病信息和應對策略。世衞同時稱，正在與受影響的國家和其他國家合作，擴大疾病監測（disease surveillance），以發現和支持可能受影響的人，並就如何控制疾病提供指導。

瑞典衛生和社會事務大臣哈倫格倫（Lena Hallengren）前日宣布，當局決定將猴痘列為對社會有危害性的疾病，以防止其進一步在社會上傳播，「該分類（classification）允許採取旨在防止進一步傳播的感染控制措施（infection control measure），向易感人群傳達該信息，以及使衞生服務部門做好處理和追蹤疑似病例的準備也很重要。」瑞典公共衞生局日前稱，首都斯德哥爾摩（Stockholm）地區確診首宗猴痘病例，該名確診患者病情不嚴重，已接受相關治療。目前尚不清楚是在哪裏被感染，正進行相關調查。

德國（Germany）巴伐利亞州（Bavaria）前日確診一宗猴痘病例，是德國首例，患者是一名來自巴西（Brazil）的26歲男子，從葡萄牙經西班牙進入德國，曾到杜塞爾多夫（Düsseldorf）和法蘭克福（Frankfurt），並在巴伐利亞州首府慕尼黑（Munich）停留約一周，他目前在慕尼黑一家醫院隔離，情況良好。當局正進一步確定密切接觸者（close contact），並詳細告知其可能的症狀（symptom）、衞生措施和傳播途徑（transmission route）。

德國衛生部長勞特巴赫（Karl Lauterbach）指出，通過英國和其他國家的相關報告，以及德國疾控機構羅伯特科赫研究所（Robert Koch Institute）及時發布的信息，德國的醫生和病人對該病毒提高了警惕，「根據現有認知，我們認為該病毒並不容易傳播，但需要迅速採取行動才能得以控制，專家正對病毒進行詳細分析和研究。」

據羅伯特科赫研究所表示，猴痘的潛伏期（incubation period）為7至21天。與天花（smallpox）相比，猴痘症狀通常溫和得多，大多數患者會在數周內康復，不過也有患者可能出現重症。

◆專家對猴痘病毒進行研究。　　　　　　資料圖片

Q&A

1. 猴痘病毒於何時首次被發現？
2. 人類最早於何時感染猴痘？
3. 承上題，感染爆發於哪個國家？
4. 感染猴痘的其中一項顯著特徵是什麼？
5. 有證據顯示哪種疫苗可以有效預防猴痘？

Answer
1. 1958年 2. 1970年 3. 剛果（Congo）4. 淋巴結（lymph node）腫大 5. 天花疫苗（smallpox vaccine）

譯文

As monkeypox virus continues to spread over the globe, the World Health Organization (WHO) convened an emergency meeting of experts and technical advisory groups a few days ago to discuss the outbreak and related response plans. Around 80 cases are confirmed worldwide so far, and 50 pending investigations. According to WHO, it is a viral infection more common to west and central Africa, but reported cases are now found among non-endemic countries, believing the recent outbreaks are unusual and calling on countries to be vigilant. It was reported that infections have been confirmed or suspected in 14 countries.

Relevant cases have been reported in at least 9 countries in Europe, including Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom, and Germany described it as the most widespread monkeypox outbreak in Europe ever. In addition, cases are also found in the United States, Canada and Australia, as well as the Netherlands and Israel, with a total of over 140 cases so far.

WHO said in a statement on its website that monkeypox virus is endemic in some animal populations in a number of countries, leading to occasional outbreaks among local people and travelers. However, the recent outbreaks are atypical as they are occurring across non-endemic countries, while WHO will continue to convene meetings of experts and technical advisory groups to share information on the disease and response strategies. Furthermore, it is working closely with the affected countries and others to expand disease surveillance to detect and support people who may be affected, and to provide guidance on how to manage the disease.

The Swedish Minister for Health and Social Affairs Lena Hallengren announced previously that the authority decided to classify monkeypox as a disease dangerous to society to contain its spread. "The classification gives access to the adoption of infection control measures aimed at preventing further spread, and it is also important that information reaches vulnerable groups and that health services are prepared to handle and trace suspected cases," she said. The Public Health Agency of Sweden said that the first case of monkeypox is confirmed in the country's capital Stockholm, while the patient is in stable condition and receiving medical treatment, and investigations are ongoing as the case involves unknown sources of infection.

The first monkeypox case in Germany has been confirmed in Bavaria recently. It is a 26-year-old man from Brazil who entered Germany from Portugal via Spain and has been in Munich, the capital of Bavaria, for about a week. Before arriving in Munich he has travelled to Düsseldorf and Frankfurt. The man is already isolated in a Munich hospital with stable condition. The authority is currently identifying further close contacts and explaining to them in detail about the possible symptoms, hygiene measures and transmission routes.

The German Health Minister Karl Lauterbach said that based on the relevant reports from the U.K. and other countries, as well as the timely information provided by the Germany's health agency Robert Koch Institute (RKI), doctors and patients in Germany have been alerted to the virus. "Based on the information available, we assume that the virus is not so easily transmitted and that an outbreak could be contained only if health authorities act quickly, and the virus is now being analyzed and examined closely by experts," he added. According to RKI, monkeypox has an incubation period of 7 to 21 days, and it is thought to cause milder symptoms than smallpox such that most patients will be able to recover within a few weeks, but it can still potentially cause severe illness.

◆龐嘉儀

美人魚亦正亦邪 會變海妖再吃人

恒大英萃

隔星期一見報

說起美人魚，大家第一時間想到的是什麼？是星巴克的商標、迪士尼的卡通片《小魚仙》，還是丹麥作家安徒生（Hans Christian Andersen）在1836年寫下的淒美童話《小美人魚》（Little Mermaid）呢？小魚仙美麗善良的經典形象深入民心，不過，在希臘神話中，人魚不但可分為mermaid和merman，還可分為人魚仙子涅瑞伊得斯（Nereids），以及賽蓮海妖（Sirens）兩種。

海中仙子守護船員安全

根據赫西奧德（Hesiod）的《神譜》（Theogony）記載，友善海神涅柔斯（Nereus）和海洋女神多里斯（Doris）一共有50位如花似玉的女兒，人稱人魚仙子（Nereids），她們每位都各自代表着海洋不同的特徵，包括鹹水（Halia）、海浪（Cynon）、海沙（Psamathe）、海島（Nesaea）、海岸（Actaea）、海灘（Eione）等。50位海中仙子和海皇波賽頓（Poseidon）之子崔坦（Triton）一樣，擁有半人半魚的外貌，常在地中海一帶出沒，負責守護航海者的安全，幫助水手們在暴風雨中脫險。

因此，不少船隻的船頭位置都會設有人魚的雕像，英國伯明翰大學也用美人魚來做校徽，寓意校友們都能在學海上乘風破浪，學滿而歸。

比賽落敗被拔掉翅膀

至於賽蓮海妖（Sirens），則是河神埃克羅厄斯（Achelous）和山林仙女斯忒洛珀（Sterope）的三位女兒。賽蓮海妖本是會吃人的半人半島，但她們因為與繆斯女神（Muses）比賽音樂落敗而被繆斯拔掉翅膀，從此不能飛翔，唯有留在西西里島嶼的海岸礁石間徘徊。幻化成美人魚的模樣，以她們那天籟歌喉誘惑航海中的水手，令他們神魂顛倒，情不自禁跳海自盡，又或者使航船觸礁，再將墮海沉溺的船員吃掉。

在荷馬史詩《奧德修斯航海記》（Odyssey）中，足智多謀的伊塔卡島國王尤利西斯（Ulysses）出於好奇，竟然渴望傾聽賽蓮海妖那令人無法抗拒的迷人歌聲，於是他命令水手們在船隻進入有賽蓮出沒的海峽之前，預先用蠟把耳朵塞住，再將他綁在船桅上，任由邪惡的賽蓮三姊妹向他唱出令人迷失心智的魔曲，直至當海員將船隻駛離海峽，再也聽不到賽蓮海妖的歌聲時，才給他鬆綁。

除了希臘神話和安徒生童話，在詹士馬修·巴里（J.M. Barrie）的《小飛俠》（Peter Pan）中，我們也可以看到美人魚的身影。在小說的第八章裏，小飛俠告誡女主角溫蒂要小心夢幻島（Neverland）的人魚：「甜美可人的美人魚，會甜蜜地將你溺死，小心不要走近她們啊。」（"Mermaids are sweet, they'll sweetly drown you, if you get too close..."）亦正亦邪的美人魚，正好反映在現實世界中，人們亦可正可邪，但需我們都能用慧眼洞悉真相，切莫以貌取人。

◆曹穎寶博士
香港恒生大學英文系副教授

◆香港恒生大學
THE HANG SENG UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

趣談英語

逢星期一見報

Eating out

It's lunchtime. Jane and Sally are in a restaurant. Read the conversation in a restaurant and do the exercise.

Waiter: Hello
Jane: Hi. Have you got a table for two, please.
Waiter: Of course. Over here. There you are. Here's the menu.
Sally: Thank you.
Waiter: Are you ready to order?
Sally: Yes, we are.
Waiter: What would you like for your starter?
Jane: I'd like French onion soup, please.
Sally: And I'll have a tomato salad, please.
Waiter: And for your main course?
Jane: Mmm, I'm not sure. I don't know whether to have the steak or Thai chicken.
Sally: Oh, I'd like the Thai chicken and rice, please. That sounds lovely.
Jane: OK, me too.
Waiter: So that's two Thai chicken and rice. And what would you like to drink?
Jane: I'll have a fresh orange juice and ...
Sally: I'd like some mineral water, please.
Waiter: OK, thank you.

Activity – Check your understanding: gap fill

Complete the gaps with a word from the box.

would	ready	for	have
please	like	whether	like

1. A table _____ two, please.
2. Are you _____ to order?
3. What would you _____ for your starter?
4. I'd _____ French onion soup, please.
5. What _____ you like to drink?
6. I'll _____ a fresh orange juice.
7. I don't know _____ to have the steak.
8. Can I have some mineral water, _____.

Answers Activity
1. for. 2. ready. 3. like. 4. like. 5. would.
6. have. 7. whether. 8. please