



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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India Develops Indigenous RT-PCR Testing Kit For Mpox

Published On: 29-08-2024

The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation** has granted approval to **Siemens Healthineers** for the **manufacture of RT-PCR** testing kits for detection of **Mpox**.

- The kits will be manufactured by the company's molecular diagnostics **manufacturing unit in Vadodara**, which has a production capacity of **one million tests per annum**.
- With the RT-PCR kits, the **test results will be available in 40 minutes**, which is significantly *faster than traditional methods* that take one to two hours.
- This will help **reduce the turnaround** time for reporting.

IMDX Monkeypox Detection RT-PCR:

- **"The IMDX Monkeypox Detection RT-PCR Assay** is a **molecular diagnostic test** that **targets two distinct regions** in the viral genome, **spanning both clade I and clade II** variants of the virus.
- This ensures **thorough detection** across various viral strains, providing comprehensive results.
- This assay is platform-agnostic and seamlessly fits into existing lab workflows with standard PCR setups, eliminating the need for new instruments.

Note:

The WHO, said in a statement on August 2, **it needed \$87.4 million over 6 months, from September 2024 to February 2025**, to work with countries, partners, and other stakeholders **to stop and contain the current outbreak of Mpox**.

- These funds will be used by WHO to implement critical activities outlined in the **global strategic preparedness and response plan (SPRP)** recently.

Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan:

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** launched a **global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan** to stop outbreaks of human-to-human transmission of mpox through coordinated global, regional, and national efforts.

- This follows the declaration of a public health emergency of international concern by the WHO Director-General on August 14.

The current plan is subject to **inputs by Member States**, who were briefed on the plan.

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The plan covers **the six-month period of September 2024 – February 2025**, envisioning **a \$135 million funding need for the response by WHO, Member States, partners** including Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), communities, and researchers, among others.

The plan, which **builds on the temporary recommendations and standing recommendations issued by the WHO Director-General**, focuses on

i implementing **comprehensive surveillance, prevention, readiness and response strategies**;

ii advancing **research and equitable access to medical** countermeasures like diagnostic tests and vaccines;

iii **minimising animal-to-human transmission**; and

iv **empowering communities to participate in outbreak** prevention and control actively.

- To interrupt transmission chains, **strategic vaccination efforts** will focus on **individuals at the highest risk**, including close contacts of recent cases and healthcare workers.
- At the **global level, the emphasis is on strategic leadership**, timely **evidence-based guidance**, and **access to medical countermeasures** for the most at-risk groups in affected countries.