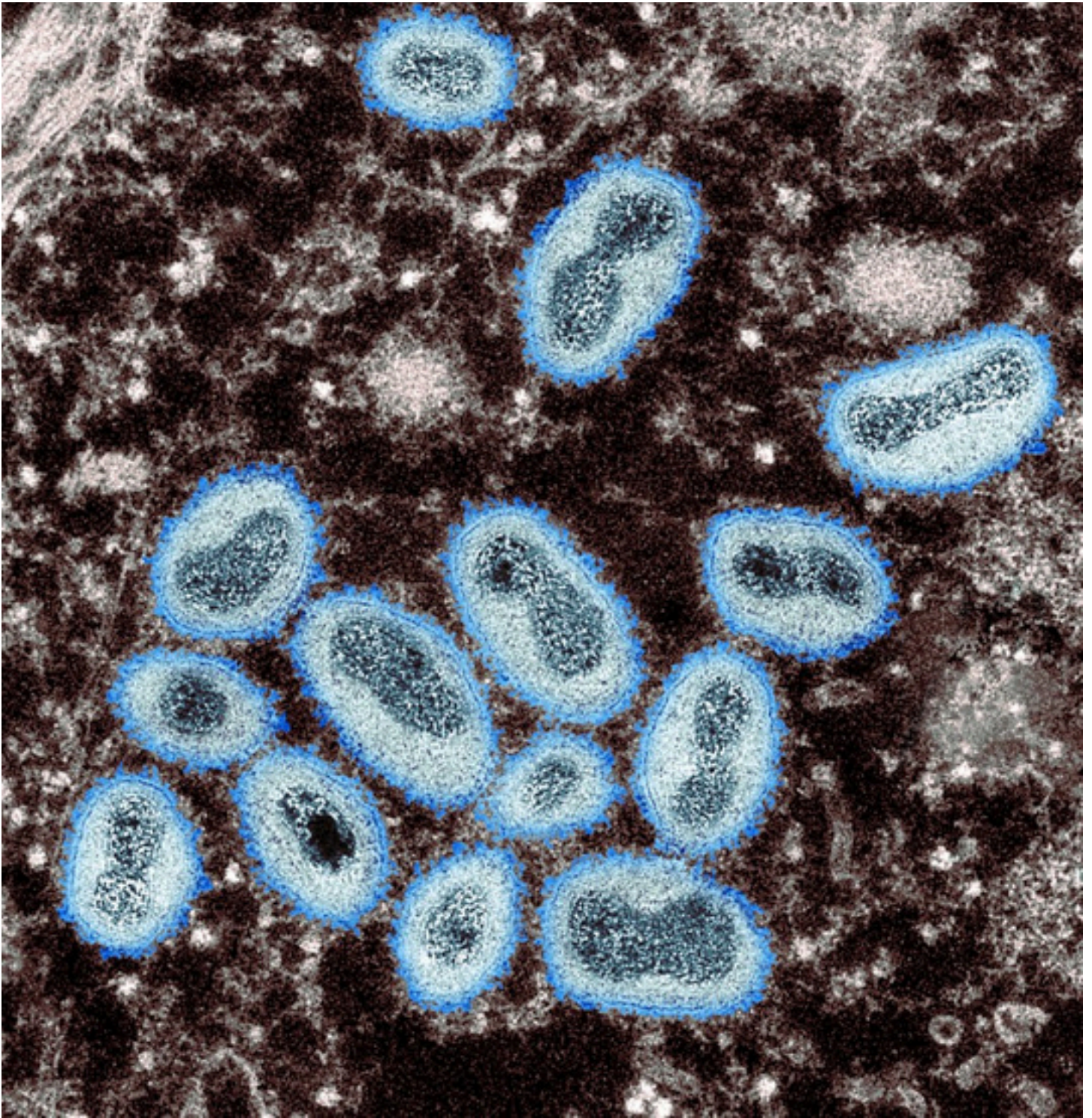


Today's agenda: Mpox (“Maymun çiçeđi virüsü” in Turkish)

In our **Reading in English classes**, coordinated by Dr. Neslihan Önder Özdemir, we have discussed *mpox*. After reviewing several studies and visiting the websites of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we have noted the following points.

Mpox, formerly known as Monkeypox, is a rare disease (see photos below).

- Mpox may cause fever, chills, headaches, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes, and painful rashes, especially on the hands, feet, face, chest, mouth, or near the genitals.
- Mpox is introduced as a zoonotic disease, spreading from vertebrate animals to people, caused by the monkeypox virus (MPXV). However, in October 2024, in *Nature* in the News titled “*Monkeypox virus keeps getting better at spreading among humans,*” it was stated that “analysis of a clade Ia strain of the virus circulating in Central Africa shows genetic mutations indicative of sustained human-to-human spread.”



The monkeypox virus (particles shown in this coloured electron micrograph) is evolving. Credit: CDC/Science Photo Library [accessed from Monkeypox virus keeps getting better at spreading among humans \(nature.com\)](#) on 01 October 2024.



accessed from [healthline.com/health/monkeypox#pictures](https://www.healthline.com/health/monkeypox#pictures)

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** reports that the disease, mpox, can spread through contact with infected wild animals, close (including sexual) contact with an infected individual, including contact with scabs or body fluids, or contact with contaminated materials, such as towels or bedding.
- **On Jul 23rd 2022, World Health Organization (WHO)** declared “public health emergency of international concern” (see <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/23-07-2022-who-director-general-declares-the-ongoing-monkeypox-outbreak-a-public-health-event-of-international-concern>). The most recent news provided by the WHO was on August 14, 2024 (see <https://www.who.int/news/item/14-08-2024-who-director-general-declares-mpox-outbreak-a-public-health-emergency-of-international-concern>).
- Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania in light of a survey they conducted report that although American public learned about the disease, mpox, during the summer of 2022, as the number of cases declined and media attention reduced in America.
- In the academic text titled “Monkeypox virus keeps getting better at spreading among humans,” Kozlov (2024) notes that

mpox diversifies (~to start to include more different types).

- There are **four known variants** of the monkeypox virus: **clades Ia, Ib, IIa and IIb.**
- Quick guide to the strains of monkeypox virus:

“**Clade Ia:** a strain that has been spreading in Central Africa since the virus was first discovered to infect humans **in 1970**. Most infections have been in children, and it was known to mainly transmit from animal to human – until recently.

Clade Ib: the strain that has caused a surge of cases in Central Africa since its discovery **in late 2023**. Known to spread from person to person, including through sexual contact.

Clade IIa: the least-studied mpox strain. It has mainly spread in Guinea, Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire. Modes of transmission are not fully understood; there is no documented evidence of sexual transmission, but it is likely that all forms of close contact contribute to its spread.

Clade IIb: the strain responsible for the still-simmering **2022** global outbreak. Known to spread from person to person, including through sexual contact. Most affected population has been men who have sex with men.”

References

Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2024). How Mpox Spreads. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mpox/causes/index.html>

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Reported by Nursing students in the 2nd and 3rd grades who are taking Reading in English class in 2024-2025 academic year

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