

**Government of Meghalaya**  
**Health & Family Welfare Department**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Dated Shillong the 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2024**

**Health Advisory for Travelers on Monkeypox Preparedness**

On 14th August 2024, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Monkeypox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). In response, the Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya, issues the following advisory:

If you have traveled in the last 21 days from a country that has recently reported confirmed or suspected cases of Monkeypox, and you develop symptoms such as fever, severe weakness, or an unexplained rash, **immediately contact the 14410 or 108 helpline**. This will enable health authorities to provide you with appropriate guidance and ensure timely medical care.

As of 18th August 2024, Monkeypox cases have been reported globally from the following countries:

- **Africa:** South Africa, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Cameroon, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Liberia.
- **Middle east:** UAE

In India, the last reported case of Monkeypox was in Kerala in March 2024, involving a person with a history of international travel. However, with the recent declaration of Monkeypox as a PHEIC on 14th August 2024, preparedness and response measures have been reviewed and strengthened at the highest level.

**The public is advised not to panic** and to stay informed about the situation through official channels.