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WHO mulls global emergency tag for monkeypox

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LONDON: The WHO convened its emergency committee on Thursday to consider if monkeypox warrants being declared a global emergency. The deliberations of the WHO's response to the outbreak follows concerns over how the UN agency handled Covid in early 2020. A "public health emergency of international concern" is WHO's highest level of alert. The agency does not declare pandemics, but it did start using the term to describe Covid in March 2020. The WHO said it did not expect any decisions before Friday.

Monkeypox does not spread nearly as easily as Covid and there are vaccines and treatments available, unlike for the coronavirus when it emerged. Over 3,300 cases of monkeypox have been confirmed in 42

nations where the virus hasn't been typically seen. Over 80% of cases are in Europe. There have been no reports of deaths.

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