

MYSTERIOUS WATERPOX WATER IN MANY COUNTRIES

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In just a few days, more than 250 cases of monkeypox were detected in many countries outside of Africa. What does the world know about this disease?

What is monkeypox , what are the symptoms?

Monkeypox is an illness caused by a virus in the same family as the common smallpox virus. This disease was first discovered in 1958 in monkeys in the laboratory. In 1970, the first human case of the disease was detected in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

To date, several outbreaks of monkeypox have been recorded in African countries. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are two main strains of monkeypox: the West African strain, which usually causes mild symptoms, and the Central African (or Congolese) strain that can cause more severe illness. The mortality rate of this disease is about 1% with the West African strain and 10% in the Central African strain.

Symptoms of monkeypox usually include a high fever above 38.5 degrees Celsius, headache, muscle aches, back pain, and swelling. Patients develop a rash 1 to 3 days after the onset of fever, usually starting on the face and spreading to other areas of the body such as the palms and soles. The usual incubation period is 5-21 days.

Can monkeypox become a pandemic as dangerous as COVID-19?

While monkeypox is already endemic in Africa, the increasing number of cases outside the continent is of great concern to the international community. As of May 25, the number of cases or suspected cases of the disease outside Africa has reached more than 250 cases in 19 different countries, all of which are of the West African strain. However, experts all believe that it is highly unlikely that monkeypox will become a pandemic like COVID-19.

Richard Hatchett, an American epidemiologist and executive director of the Coalition for Epidemic Response Initiatives (CEPI), commented: "Monkeypox is a very different disease from COVID-19. It is rapidly transmitted by respiratory droplets, so it will not be a global threat like we see with COVID-19. It is nevertheless a disease that causes concern and reminds us of the dangers of COVID-19. infectious diseases in the world".

Similar to COVID-19, monkeypox is a zoonotic disease. It is not clear which animals are the vectors of transmission to humans, although experts say it is possible that rodents such as mice or squirrels. Direct contact with the blood or fluids of an infected animal will transmit the disease to humans, but the ability to spread from person to person is not easy.

Monkeypox is thought to be spread from person to person by close contact, such as talking face-to-face for long periods of time, touching skin lesions or bodily fluids of an infected person, or from clothing contaminated with the virus.

Rosamund Lewis, WHO expert on smallpox, said: "Monkeypox is endemic near tropical rainforest areas in West and Central Africa, and is becoming more prevalent in urban areas. This disease has evolved over the last 20-30 years, and is not an unknown unknown disease We have known of the main modes of transmission in the past, and the risk to the public is now now is low". WHO experts also reaffirmed that while the current spread of the disease is "unusual", the disease can be completely controlled.

How are countries responding to the monkeypox wave?

Europe is currently experiencing the strongest wave of monkeypox outside of Africa. The UK has now recorded 79 cases, Spain has 52 cases and Portugal has 49 cases. Although the overall number of infections remains low, the European Center for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC) has recommended that countries strengthen the rapid detection of new infections as well as contact tracing.

Belgium is the first country to have required cases of infection or close contact (F1) to self-isolate for 21 days, after recording the first cases of people who attended a festival for people over 18 years old at the beginning of the month. Germany also issued a similar recommendation on May 25. In Spain, the Madrid government has traced and temporarily closed a sauna suspected of being an outbreak. According to the WHO, the number of cases of monkeypox is likely to increase during the summer, when many people attend large gatherings and festivals.

In order to prevent the risk of monkeypox becoming a widespread disease, vaccines are the solution that many countries are interested in. There is currently no specific vaccine for this disease, but according to WHO, the vaccine against smallpox is still up to 85% effective against monkeypox.

Although common smallpox was considered to have been successfully eradicated in the 1980s, countries maintain a stockpile of vaccines for the disease as a precaution. There are currently two vaccines for smallpox on the market, of which a new one, manufactured by the Danish company Bavarian Nordic, has been licensed for use against both smallpox and monkeypox in the United States. and is also licensed by the EU for smallpox. In addition to vaccines, the US and Europe have also licensed some types of antibodies to treat these diseases.

On May 20, Britain began recommending smallpox vaccination to prevent monkeypox for health workers and people at high risk of exposure to the pathogen. France also took a similar step on May 25.

Meanwhile, other countries are still in the process of adding domestic vaccine sources. Denmark has announced that it will receive 200 doses of the vaccine from the Netherlands, and is promoting to buy more vaccines from the countrys Bavarian Nordic manufacturer to inject those at high risk of infection. Germany has also ordered an additional 40,000 doses of the vaccine from the Bavarian Nordic. In the United States, officials say there are still about 1,000 doses of smallpox vaccine in stock, and will buy more in bulk to prevent monkeypox from spreading.

China has not yet recorded any cases of monkeypox, but is also promoting the production of a new vaccine for the disease. China National Biotech, a subsidiary of Sinopharm Group and the worlds leading vaccine producer, said that the company has stored monkeypox virus for backup and will use it in the production of a new vaccine in case of infection. necessary, needs.

(Source: VTV)

Amid GLOBAL FOOD PRICES, CHINA FINDES WAYS TO CONTROL INFLATION

China is fiercely anti-epidemic even though its economy has to pay a great price. But recently, the countrys officials warned not to let the fight against the epidemic make food insecurity and push up prices.

According to the South China Morning Post, for two days in a row, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang warned local officials not to let the fight against the epidemic disrupt the wheat harvest season.

This shows concerns about Chinas food security and inflation risk in the context of the global food crisis.

According to experts, without production and logistics disturbances, grain output of the worlds second economy is on track to be higher than the same period last year. This could cool already high international food prices.

Food security concerns

According to Chinese media, in a meeting on May 26, Premier Li Keqiang urged governments at all levels "not to waste time" to ensure a good harvest, avoiding the situation of grain not being harvested. plan.

"No locality is allowed to set up quarantine stations that can affect the harvest, regardless of the reason," Mr. Lee emphasized.

A day earlier, speaking to 100,000 officials across the country, Mr. Lee emphasized that food security was a top priority.

"Even if an outbreak is detected, the harvesting operation must continue," SCMP quoted the Chinese leader as saying. According to him, local officials will be responsible if grain production is unstable.

Since March, China has introduced strict restrictions to control the new wave of Covid-19 epidemic. The country blocked off a series of major cities, including Shanghai - a financial center of 25 million people, with the worlds busiest seaport.

The harvest is not only important to Chinas annual output target of 650 million tonnes, but also determines food prices amid soaring global inflation.

Food is a key component of Chinas consumer price index (CPI) basket of goods. Food prices will affect the prices of other goods and services.

Organizations around the globe are constantly warning about the risk of world hunger due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the two leading producers of cereals and fertilizers.

Beijing has sought to increase grain production since 2020, but farming activities have been repeatedly hampered by new outbreaks.

"Supply chain disruptions due to the Covid-19 epidemic, the war in Ukraine and global export bans have worried Chinese officials," said Darin Friedrichs, founder and director of market research. School at Sitonia Consulting, a Shanghai-based commodity analysis firm - comments.

Global inflation pressure

Countries on most of the continent introduced new restrictions and bans on products ranging from wheat, corn, cooking oils to sugar. According to calculations by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, global food prices in April were 30% higher than a year earlier.

India has just banned wheat exports after domestic grain prices skyrocketed. India is the second largest wheat producer in the world. Demand for wheat imports from this country increased after the supply of the Black Sea region decreased because of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Egypt, Kazakhstan, Kosovo and Serbia have also banned the export of this item.

"Indias ban will lift global wheat prices. Right now, there are no major suppliers on the market," a wheat dealer owner, who asked not to be named, told CNBC.

Chinas wheat output this year is expected to be stable compared with last year, said Chai Ning, deputy research director at Cngrain.com.

The disturbances to production and logistics in the agricultural sector are easing, according to Ma Wenfeng, an analyst at Beijing Oriental Agribusiness Consulting.

"We can have a good wheat crop, as long as there are no excessive virus control measures," he added.

"Fighting the epidemic should not be the only goal. We need to change our perspective and ensure economic and social development," said Li Guoxiang, a fellow at the Institute of Rural Development under the Academy of Social Sciences. China - comments.

"If Chinas wheat production stabilizes, it will have a decisive impact on the world," he added.

China's grain prices have fallen below international prices. This could help cool food prices globally as the country of 1.4 billion people imports less.

(Source: Zing News)

Forgotten CRISIS BY RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

With the world's attention focused on the Russia-Ukraine armed conflict, other humanitarian crises such as those in Afghanistan, Yemen and the Horn of Africa have all faded and would have been worse without its drastic intervention.

Forgotten crises

An estimated 19 million Afghans - nearly half the population - are experiencing extreme food insecurity in the crisis that has escalated dramatically since the US withdrawal in August 2021, ending two decades of food insecurity. Century of military presence in this South Asian country.

In Yemen, about two-thirds of the population, or 19 million people, also face food insecurity as the country relies heavily on aid. About 14 million people in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia are on the brink of famine.

The director-general of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Robert Mardini, said the agency has seen a drop in global humanitarian funding since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"At the moment all attention is on the Ukraine crisis, all support is also on Ukraine. Whether that affects other crises, time will tell," Mardini said.

Mr. Mardini said that the Red Cross's humanitarian activities for 2022 are only 42% funded, while this rate at the same time in 2021 is 52%.

Athena Rayburn, Advocacy, Communications and Campaigns Manager at Save the Children of Afghanistan, said the situation in the country has noticeably deteriorated since the US withdrawal and the issue is no longer being heard by many people interested as 9 months ago. Ms. Rayburn fears worse things will happen in Afghanistan.

"The social safety nets that existed before August 2021 have all been drained. Schools closed, hospitals closed, food, fuel and rent prices all increased. That is driving people into despair," she said.

According to Ms. Rayburn, governments are cutting humanitarian aid budgets for Afghanistan and countries are also diverting resources to Ukraine.

"There are many reasons why the Ukraine issue has attracted so much attention. Compared to the strong public support for Ukraine, the crisis in Afghanistan is completely pale," said Ms. Rayburn.

Resources are running out

In addition to deflecting the attention of governments and the public, there is growing evidence that the war in Ukraine will exacerbate crises around the world, draining development aid while causing the prices of some items to increase day by day.

Daniel Maxwell, professor of food security at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University, said the war is negatively affecting countries already struggling to cope with wheat and corn prices or corn is on the rise.

"The Russo-Ukrainian war has had dramatic effects on prices and thus exacerbated all other crises. The level of coverage in the media as well as the geopolitical priorities make Ukraine attract all the attention and aid. This makes resources available to other regions of the world quite limited. We can think about two things at once. But I don't see we're doing that," said Mr. Maxwell.

In Yemen, conflict has flared up since the Saudi-led coalition of Gulf states launched an offensive against the Houthi rebels in 2015. The already poor country has suffered from an epidemic and has been in constant poverty ever since.

Sukaina Sharafuddin, a Yemeni aid worker, said: "Many families have not seen fruit or vegetables for months. I met a mother with 5 children and I asked her what she feeds them. She said sometimes they just boil water with spices and drink it because there's no food."

Mardini warned that essential services, such as health care and sanitation, were "on the verge of collapse" across Yemen.

A United Nations fundraising conference for Yemen in March pledged \$1.3 billion in humanitarian assistance. While that was welcomed by organisers, it represented less than a third of what the United Nations considers necessary. 2022 becomes the sixth year aid to Yemen has not been fully funded.

Also in March, the Disaster Emergency Committee, a coalition of British aid agencies, called for aid to Ukraine, raising \$240 million in its first two weeks. The same call for Yemen, in December 2016 raised only \$36 million.

According to Sharafuddin, the disparity in fundraising is because people in donor countries "feel more connected to what's happening in Ukraine."

"When they hear about Yemen, they focus on political news, which makes them nervous or scared. But in reality, the people are the real victims. My opinion, as a Yemeni and as a mother, is that if the governments step in, this could be over tomorrow," said Sharafuddin.

Tired of sponsors

The humanitarian community has long struggled to draw public attention to non-stop crises, such as the civil war in Syria, which has entered its

11th year.

Susan D. Moeller, professor of communication and international affairs at the University of Maryland, and the author of "Mindlessness: The Media Selling Plague, Famine, War, and Evil" how to die," said news organizations find it difficult to keep audiences interested in protracted events.

"The media cannot cover events without mutations. All hot events and new discoveries are considered an immediate crisis, whether it is an earthquake or an assassination, the media, the news will constantly cover it. But by the fifth month or fifth year in an ongoing conflict, news of them often disappears," Moeller said.

According to her, if information does not appear regularly and continuously, the public is even less likely to be aware of an ongoing humanitarian crisis, let alone put pressure on leaders to must act.

The Horn of Africa is in the midst of its worst drought in 40 years, putting millions at risk of starvation. However, a poll this month by the Christian Aid charity found that only 23% of respondents said they had heard of the crisis. Meanwhile, 91% said they knew about Russias attack on Ukraine.

Abdikarim Mohamed, a spokesman for the East African Red Cross, said people in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya rely almost entirely on state aid "because people dont seem to care" about it. help.

"This is not a new problem. There is sponsor fatigue. But the scale of the problem is now reaching the point where we need governments to focus on trying to prevent these people from dying," Mohamed said.

(Source: VOV)

ASIN HEEL OF US OIL

(Illustration)

Russia has largely mitigated the impact of sanctions on its oil business so far. But the insurance industry threatens to deal a blow to operations unless Moscow can fill the void left by Western companies.

Insurers from Europe and the United States, which dominate the international maritime market, are cutting coverage for Russian tankers to avoid violating sanctions, industry sources say. sanctions were imposed after Moscow launched a military offensive against Ukraine . Even non-Russian ships are now at risk of being abandoned by Western insurers, if they carry Russian crude oil.

The move by Western insurers could undermine Moscows recent success in rerouting crude supplies from Europe and the US to Asia, accelerating a business decline, according to Reuters. Russia in Europe and created a bigger hole in the energy market when restrictive measures were implemented on the worlds second-largest crude exporter.

The negative impact is expected to become apparent in June and July, four sources in the transportation and fuel industry said. "There is ongoing pressure on international marine insurers to force them to do so. does not cover shipping companies worldwide transporting Russian oil. Unrest or a short-term disruption to marine insurance cannot be ruled out," said Maria Bertzeletou, an analyst with Greek firm Signal Maritime Services, one of the leading fuel tanker managers. world, said.

According to regulations, commercial ships are required to purchase protection and indemnity insurance (P&I), to protect ship owners and ship operators against civil liabilities that may arise against third parties during the process. operations, business, including environmental damage and injuries. Separate hull and machinery policies will cover physical damage to the vehicle.

Although insurers based in countries that are major buyers of oil from Russia can participate in the service, their ability to accept the potential risks when receiving separate insurance policies from the re-insurers is not clear. Insurance also seems to be affected. Similar to the marine insurance market, the global reinsurance market is also dominated by US and European companies, so they need to pay attention to a series of sanctions targeting their interests. shipping and banks of Russia .

Government guarantee

Without reinsurance, a company providing insurance policies for tankers would likely need government guarantees to cover potential liabilities, which could run into the billions of dollars.

"In Russia there may exist insurers that are able to offer third-party liability and reinsurance programs, which can later receive the backing of a sovereign wealth fund from China. or Russia or a combination of both. That is technically possible. It depends on the political will and the market in which Russia will focus its goods," said Mike Salthouse, head of claims at North, a member of the International Group, an association of insurance companies that provide insurance. P&I services for about 90% of ocean-going vessels, said.

Currently, customers in India and China are buying Russian oil products boycotted by the West, at high discounts. Russias oil exports in April returned to their pre-war averages, according to a new report by the International Energy Agency (IEA).

In the absence of Western insurers, Russia is turning to local insurers, including the countrys fourth-largest provider Ingosstrakh.

Reuters could not verify whether the Russian government or any other country had offered or planned to give private insurer Ingosstrakh any financial guarantees. The ministries of economy and transport of Russia as well as Ingosstrakh did not respond to requests for comment.

India, a longtime ally of Moscow, has begun to increase its crude oil imports from Russia. According to the IEA, the share of Russias exports of this fuel has increased to 10% from zero since the beginning of this year. A senior Indian government official revealed that New Delhi does not consider insurance as a barrier to future purchases as Ingosstrakh is responsible for any mishaps occurring at sea.

"India recognizes Ingosstrakh's insurance services including P&I so there should be no problem as long as the ships meet the docking rules. Since we don't recognize the US sanctions, we do. will accept Russian ships. Our liability will arise only after unloading the goods from the ship," the official explained, who asked not to be named.

China, the world's largest oil importer, is also increasing its purchases of Russian oil at bargain prices. However, Chinese insurers are looking to take on services previously undertaken by their Western counterparts, which will likely require government guarantees, according to three industry sources.

"It would not be a commercially viable decision for any Chinese insurer to take over insurance from European companies. Chinese businesses don't have much experience or knowledge in this area," said Leonard Li, partner at management consulting firm Oliver Wyman.

Chinese government officials did not respond to requests for comment.

Problem

There is precedent for governments to intervene to take on the maritime risks associated with the movement of embargoed goods. In 2012, Japan used a government guarantee of liability to help transport Iranian oil shipments after Western insurers cut service because of sanctions, before the world powers reached an international nuclear agreement with Tehran.

The law passed in 2012 is only for Iranian oil imports, and new rules will need to be approved for any guarantees regarding Russia, a Japanese official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. According to the official and another source, they are not aware of any discussion of such contingency plans.

Japanese insurers are still providing insurance to Russian tankers as long as they are not affiliated with the businesses on the sanctions list, according to an industry source familiar with the matter. The source added that if reinsurers in the UK and other Western countries stop providing services, insurers in the country of the rising sun are likely to do the same.

A complex set of sanctions by the United States, the European Union (EU) and the UK have banned ships owned by Russia or flying the Russian flag from docking at or entering into new commercial contracts, raising capital or purchasing new coverage from companies operating in that jurisdiction.

There is no insurance ban on foreign-owned ships carrying Russian oil, but it is being considered as part of a new EU sanctions package, including a ban on fuel imports from the country.

Meanwhile, the insurance industry is self-imposed sanctions against any possible future restrictions, and the Russian maritime sector is seeing the suspension of many services, including audits, vessel determinations made by leading foreign companies (essential for port access and insurance), the withdrawal of shipping companies and the suspension of marine engine manufacturers from building their devices.

"Private businesses are becoming more and more difficult for governments, because they are afraid of investors and shareholders," said Ross Denton, head of international trade at the law firm Ashurst, emphasize.

(Source: Vietnamnet)

RUSSIA PROVIDES CONDITIONS WITH THE WEST

Russian President Vladimir Putin has denied that Moscow is responsible for the world's food supply problems.

The world food shortage is not Russia's fault, but Moscow is ready to export grain and fertilizer to help defuse the crisis if the West lifts politically motivated sanctions.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said so in a phone call with Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi on May 26 with the content focusing on measures to deal with the ongoing food crisis.

According to the Kremlin boss, the current situation is due to disruptions in production and in supply chains, as well as Western financial policies during the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. Things are made worse by sanctions against Russia imposed by the United States and the European Union (EU) over the conflict in Ukraine.

Speaking at a press conference after the phone call, Prime Minister Draghi said the purpose of this exchange was to find a way to clear the amount of grain stuck in warehouses in Ukraine. The Italian leader called on Russia and Ukraine to work together to lift the blockade of ports in the Black Sea, where wheat inside warehouses is in danger of spoiling.

According to Reuters, Draghi said he would talk to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on the matter by phone. However, the White House said there is currently no discussion about easing sanctions on Russia in exchange for grain exports.

In addition to Draghi's move, the United Nations is working to broker a deal to ship Ukrainian grain through ports in the Black Sea. The Russian Defense Ministry also proposed corridors allowing foreign ships to leave ports along the Black Sea, as well as the port of Mariupol in the Sea of Azov.

Mikhail Mizintsev, head of the Russian Center for Defense Control, said that 70 foreign ships (from 16 countries) are present at six seaports in the Black Sea, including Odesa, Kherson and Mykolaiv. However, Mr. Mizintsev did not specify how many ships are ready to carry food.

While waiting for diplomatic steps to bear fruit, Roman Rusakov, a senior official of Ukraine's Ministry of Agriculture, said on May 26 that the country was looking for ways to export grain by road and rail to help support the country's economy, mitigate the food crisis.

However, according to AP, rail transport only gets a small part of food out of Ukraine. For example, trains can only carry a maximum of 60,000 tons of grain from Ukraine to Austria or Germany per month.

At the moment, Ukraine has at least 20 million tons of grain in stock, and agricultural consulting firm APK-Inform estimates there could be another 40 million tons in this summers harvest.

Ukrainian Ambassador to Austria Vasyl Khymynets is optimistic that Kiev can export up to 600,000 tons of grain by road a month, although this figure is still low compared to the time before the conflict (February 24, 2022).).

At that time, Ukraine can export up to 6 million tons of wheat, barley and corn per month. However, this figure fell to 300,000 tons in March before increasing to 1.1 million tons in April. The Ukrainian government wanted to raise this figure to 2 million tons but faced many logistical challenges such as shortages. wagons, fuel, trucks...

Overcoming such obstacles could take years and billions of dollars. Rusakov admits that it is impossible to achieve this goal unless the ports in the Black Sea are no longer blocked.

Growing concerns about food security

The risk of food shortages in Brazil is higher than ever as the percentage of people who cannot afford to buy food for themselves or their families at some point in 2021 has risen to a record 36%, compared with 30% in 2019. This is the result of an analysis published by the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV) on May 26, based on data from a Gallup Company poll (USA).

According to FGV, this is the first time that food insecurity in Latin Americas largest food producer has been higher than the world average since this data began to be collected in 2006. Marcelo Neri, the studys author, said food prices had risen sharply in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and called the situation worrisome.

Meanwhile, Indias Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has announced that the country will maintain the ban on wheat exports to ensure the stability of the domestic market and limit "unscrupulous hoarding" in the world. gender.

In an interview with Reuters news agency on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Switzerland on May 25, Mr. Goyal said that the decision would not affect the global market because Indias exports account for less than 1%. total wheat traded in the world. In addition, New Delhi maintains exports to some vulnerable and neighboring countries.

The statement comes after IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva urged India to review the ban introduced in mid-May. According to Ms. Georgieva, the country now plays an important role. for global food security and stability. India is the 2nd largest wheat producer in the world (after China) but does not export much.

(Source: Soha)

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