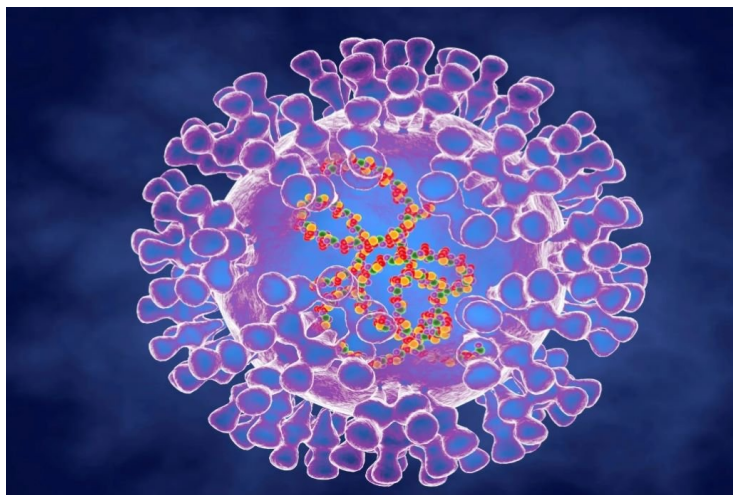


Japan's GHIT invests \$460,000 for development of Mpox detection test prototype

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Capable of distinguishing clades using the Iso-PAS method



Japan-based Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) Fund has announced an investment of approximately JPY 70 million (\$460,000) for the development of a prototype detection test for mpox (monkeypox).

Although the emergency declaration was lifted in September 2025, mpox cases continue to be reported in neighboring countries, and the risk of severe complications and re-emergence remains a concern.

Mpox is mainly classified into two strains/clades, and infection rates and disease severity vary depending on the type. Locally, diagnostic systems currently available for identifying the clades remain insufficient, and developing simple and rapid diagnostic tests with clade distinguishing capabilities is urgently needed to prevent the further spread of infection.

Against this background, the GHIT Fund will invest approximately 70 million yen (\$460,000) in the development of a prototype mpox detection test. The project involves NIPRO CORPORATION, a global comprehensive healthcare company in the medical devices and pharmaceuticals; TBA Co., Ltd, a venture company originating from Tohoku University; the Japan Institute for Health Security (JIHS); the international non-profit organization PATH (USA); and the Institut National de Recherche Biomédicale (INRB).

The project seeks to develop a prototype detection test capable of distinguishing clades using the Iso-PAS method—an inexpensive and simple genetic testing technique—and its performance will be evaluated. This will enable easy testing even in facilities with limited infrastructure, facilitating prompt and appropriate treatment while helping to prevent the spread of infection.