



MULTI-COUNTRY MONKEYPOX OUTBREAK: SITUATION UPDATE

The situational report updates the epidemiological and public health response activities on the ongoing multi-country monkeypox outbreak.

The situation in South Africa

Since 22 June 2022 to date (26 July 2022), there have been three unlinked laboratory-confirmed monkeypox cases reported in South Africa with no deaths reported. The cases were reported from Gauteng (n = 1), Western Cape (n = 1) and Limpopo (n = 1) Provinces and are males aged 30, 32 and 42 years, respectively. There have been no secondary cases linked to the three confirmed cases reported. No new laboratory-confirmed case has been reported since the last case reported on 10 July 2022 in Limpopo province.

From 25 May to 26 July 2022, the National Institute for Communicable Diseases conducted 261 monkeypox laboratory tests (PCR) from individuals suspected of monkeypox disease within South Africa (n=157) and other African countries (n=104). Full genetic sequencing for the cases from Gauteng and Western Cape was conducted. The viral genomes clustered in the B.1 lineage of the Western Africa clade with other viral genomes associated with cases of the current multi-country outbreak. The genetic sequencing for the third case is being conducted.

Even though the risk of monkeypox to the general South African public is considered low, healthcare workers should be on high alert and maintain a high index of suspicion for any individuals presenting with an unexplained acute rash or skin lesions **AND** one or more of the following signs or symptoms: headache, acute onset of fever (>38.5°C), lymphadenopathy (swollen lymph nodes), myalgia (muscle pain/body aches) and backache **AND** for which the following differential diagnoses are excluded: chickenpox, measles, bacterial skin infections, syphilis, molluscum contagiosum, allergic reactions and other locally relevant common cause of papular or vesicular rash. For more information on monkeypox preparedness and response activities, visit <https://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/monkeypox/>

Global situation

Since May 2022 and up to 22 July 2022, 16 016 laboratory-confirmed monkeypox cases have been reported from 75 countries/areas/territories across all six WHO Regions (The European Region, Regions of the Americas, Eastern Mediterranean Region, Western Pacific Region, South-East Asia region and the African Region). The majority of the cases have been reported from the WHO European Region, with 11 865 confirmed cases reported. Five monkeypox-associated deaths have been reported, all in the Africa Region.

On 23 July 2022, the WHO Director-General declared this outbreak a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) and issued temporary recommendations for countries in order to stop transmission and containing the outbreak. The latest updates on the global situation can be accessed at <https://www.who.int/emergencies/situation-reports>; <https://map.monkeypox.global.health/country>; <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news>.