



## 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 (02 August 2022), there have been three unlinked laboratory-confirmed monkeypox cases reported in South Africa with no deaths. 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 2 August 2022, the National Institute for Communicable Diseases conducted 276 monkeypox laboratory tests (PCR) from individuals suspected of monkeypox disease within South Africa (n=170) and other African countries (n=106). 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 January 2022 and up to 02 August 2022, 23 351 laboratory-confirmed monkeypox cases and eight deaths have been reported from 83 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 eight monkeypox-associated deaths reported includes three deaths that occurred outside of the Central and West Africa where monkeypox is usually found. Five deaths were reported in the Africa Region (three in Nigeria and two in Central African Republic), two in the European Region (Spain) and one in the Regions of the Americas (Brazil).

The majority of the cases have been reported from the WHO European Region (59.7%) with 12 186 confirmed cases and two deaths and from the Regions of the Americas (38.5%) with 6 785 confirmed cases and one death. In the ongoing 2022 multi-country monkeypox outbreak, males aged between 18 - 44 years and males who self-identify as men who have sex with men (MSM) and have reported recent sexual activities with one or multiple partners continues to be disproportionately affected.

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://www.who.int/emergencies/situation-reports;); <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/world-map.html>; [https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpx\\_global/](https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpx_global/); <https://map.monkeypox.global.health/country>.