



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 23 August 2022, and since the last update ([NICD-Multi-country-monkeypox-outbreak-situation-update_16-August-2022.pdf](#)), there has been one new laboratory-confirmed monkeypox case. The diagnosis was confirmed through PCR testing at a private-sector laboratory on Wednesday, 17 August 2022. This brings the total number of laboratory-confirmed cases reported in South Africa to five (Limpopo: n=1, Gauteng: n=2 and Western Cape: n=2). The cases are unlinked and there have been no deaths. At the time of this report, there have been no secondary cases linked to the five confirmed cases. The latest case is a 28-year-old male from Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, with a recent travel history to the Netherlands and Spain. Public health response measures have been initiated.

From 25 May to 23 August 2022, the National Institute for Communicable Diseases conducted 332 monkeypox laboratory tests (PCR) from individuals suspected of monkeypox disease within South Africa (n=224) and other African countries (n=108). This testing volume does not account for the testing conducted by private-sector laboratories. Full genetic sequencing for the first two reported cases (i.e., the first cases to be identified in Gauteng and in Western Cape Province) 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. Sequencing efforts are underway for recent cases identified in Western Cape and Gauteng in Province (the 4th and 5th cases).

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 to 22 August 2022, an estimated 41 664 laboratory-confirmed monkeypox cases including 12 deaths have been reported from 96 countries/areas/territories across all six WHO Regions (European Region, Region of the Americas, Eastern Mediterranean Region, Western Pacific Region, South-East Asia Region and African Region). The majority of the cases have been reported from the WHO European Region with 20 652 confirmed cases and the Region of the Americas with 20 438 confirmed cases. The African Region is the third region reporting more cases with 404 laboratory-confirmed cases. The 12 monkeypox-associated deaths reported includes five deaths that occurred outside of Central and West Africa. These five deaths were reported from Spain (n=2), Brazil (n=1), Ecuador (n=1) and India (n=1). Africa Region reported seven deaths from Nigeria (n=4), Central African Republic (n=2) and Ghana (n=1). 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 continue to be disproportionately affected, except in the West and Central Africa countries.

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://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpx_global/; <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/news-events/monkeypox-situation-update>; <https://map.monkeypox.global.health/country>; <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/world-map.html>; <https://www.who.int/emergencies/situation-reports>.