



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 (30 August 2022), there have been five unlinked laboratory-confirmed monkeypox cases reported in South Africa with no deaths. There have been no secondary cases linked to the five confirmed cases. No new laboratory-confirmed case has been reported since the last case reported on 17 August 2022. The cases in South Africa to date were reported from Limpopo (n=1), Gauteng (n=2) and Western Cape (n=2).

From 25 May to 30 August 2022, the National Institute for Communicable Diseases conducted 344 monkeypox laboratory tests (PCR) from individuals suspected of monkeypox disease within South Africa (n=234) and other African countries (n=110). 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 29 August 2022, an estimated 47 751 laboratory-confirmed monkeypox cases including 15 deaths have been reported from 101 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 Region of the Americas with 24 172 confirmed cases and the WHO European Region with 21 098 confirmed cases. The African Region is the third region reporting more cases with 448 laboratory-confirmed cases. The 15 monkeypox-associated deaths reported includes six deaths that occurred outside of Central and West Africa. These six deaths were reported from Spain (n=2), Brazil (n=1), Ecuador (n=1), India (n=1) and Cuba (n=1). Africa Region reported nine deaths from Nigeria (n=4), Central African Republic (n=2) and Ghana (n=3). 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>.