



# ASEAN BIODIASPORA VIRTUAL CENTER

## DISEASE ALERT

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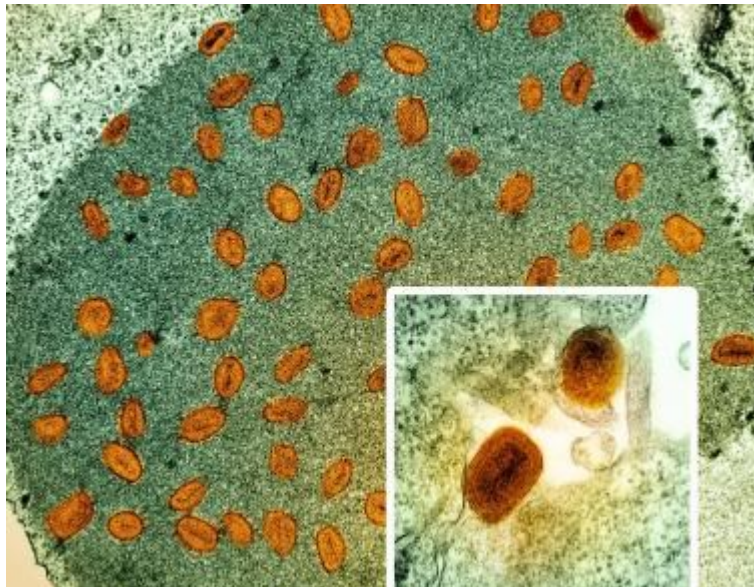
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**First alert: 31 October 2024 | Mpox Clade Ib in The United Kingdom**

### SUB-LOCATIONS AFFECTED

England, London



Source: [National Institute of Allergy Infectious Disease](#)

### Event Description

A case of mpox Clade Ib has been confirmed in the United Kingdom, as reported by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) on October 30, 2024. This represents the third documented case of Clade I in Europe, following previous single cases in Sweden and Germany. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on August 14, 2024, in response to persistent mpox outbreaks across multiple African nations.

### Epidemiological Information

A single case of mpox Clade Ib has been detected in London, with the patient currently receiving treatment at the Royal Free Hospital's specialized High Consequence Infectious Disease unit. The individual developed symptoms shortly after returning from travel to affected African countries, with initial flu-like symptoms appearing on October 22, 2024, followed by the characteristic rash two days later. The onset of symptoms occurred within 24 hours of the patient's return flight to the UK.

Laboratory testing has confirmed the infection as Clade Ib, marking the first detection of this clade in the United Kingdom.

The patient presented a typical progression of mpox symptoms, beginning with flu-like manifestations followed by the development of a rash. This aligns with the known clinical pattern of mpox infection, which can include fever, headaches, low energy, and the appearance of pus-filled lesions that may persist for up to a month. The specific severity of symptoms in this case has not been disclosed, though Clade Ib is generally considered milder than Clade 1a, albeit with limited comparative data.

This case is particularly noteworthy as it represents Clade Ib, which is distinct from the Clade II variant that has been circulating at low levels in the UK since 2022. The existing Clade II transmission pattern in the UK has primarily affected gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) communities. This new Clade Ib case, being travel-associated, represents a different transmission pattern and requires specific attention from public health authorities.

Several critical information gaps remain in the current understanding of this case, including the specific countries visited in Africa, the patient's demographic profile, clinical presentation timeline, extent of contact exposure, vaccination history, and any underlying medical conditions. Health authorities continue to gather and analyze this information as part of their ongoing investigation and risk assessment process.

As the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is currently the epicenter of the mpox Clade I outbreak, the forecasted passenger volume has been calculated with DRC as the origin. The UK is in 33rd position (533 passengers) for highest forecasted passenger volume for travel out of the DRC during the month of October.

## Response Measures

The UKHSA is actively managing the situation with comprehensive public health measures. Contact tracing efforts are currently underway, with health officials working diligently to identify and monitor potential close contacts to minimize any risk of transmission. The UKHSA maintains that the risk to the general public remains low at this time, though they continue to closely monitor the situation and may adjust their risk assessment as new information becomes available.

### Sources:

1. **BlueDot.** (2024, October 31). BlueDot Portal. Available at: <https://portal.bluedot.global/>.
2. Agency, U. H. S. (2024, October 30). UKHSA detects first case of clade IB MPOX. GOV.UK. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-detects-first-case-of-clade-ib-mpox>.
3. Gallagher, J. (2024, October 30). First case of clade 1B mpox detected in UK. BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ce3yn7pzdndo>.
4. Keane, D. (2024, October 30). UK reports first case of deadly new mpox variant. The Standard. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/health/mpox-first-uk-case-london-clade-b-variant-ukhsa-b1191045.html>.