



# ASEAN BIODIASPORA VIRTUAL CENTER

## DISEASE ALERT

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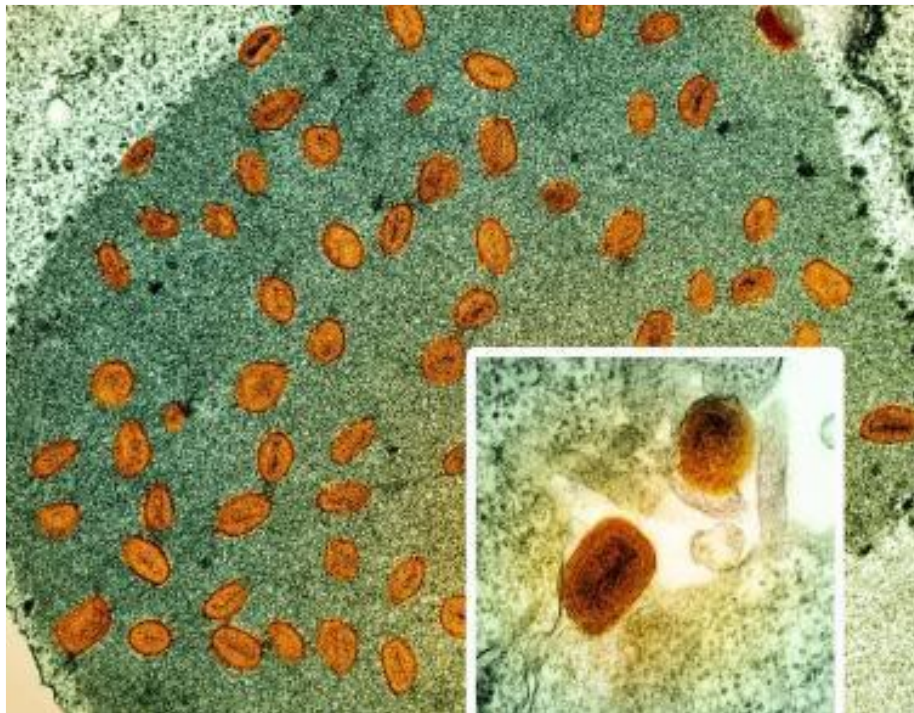
November 6, 2024 | Issue No. 20

**First alert: October 31, 2024**

**Second alert: November 6, 2024 | Mpox Clade 1b in the United Kingdom**

### SUB-LOCATIONS AFFECTED

England (London)



Source: <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/news-events/nih-releases-mpox-research-agenda>

### Event Description

On November 4, 2024, the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) confirmed two additional cases of mpox Clade 1b in the United Kingdom (UK) among household contacts of the confirmed index case (imported from an African country). This brings the total number of confirmed cases of the Clade 1b mpox strain in the country to three. Please refer to [our alert on October 31, 2024](#) for more information on the index case. 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

On November 4, two cases of Clade Ib mpox were identified among household contacts of the initial case reported on October 30. These individuals began experiencing flu-like symptoms more than 24 hours after returning to the UK from several African countries, followed by the development of a rash that worsened in the days that followed. Currently, both patients are receiving specialized care at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in London and have been administered the mpox vaccine.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), these two new cases of the Clade Ib mpox variant represent the first instances of local transmission in Europe and the first recorded outside of Africa. Current evidence indicates that mpox Clade Ib is associated with more severe disease compared to Clade II, which has been circulating at low levels in the UK since 2022.

## Response Measures

Authorities report that the risk of rapid spread remains low, as the new cases involve close household contacts of the first infected individual. The UKHSA and partner organizations are actively monitoring contacts, providing testing, vaccination, and guidance for those who exhibit symptoms or test positive. Additionally, healthcare facilities are prepared to manage any potential future cases.

The UK has an existing stock of mpox vaccines and plans to procure additional ones to support a routine immunization program, enhancing the country's resilience. This strategy aligns with recent advice from the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunization (JCVI). In collaboration with international partners, the UKHSA has been closely monitoring the Clade Ib mpox since its emergence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), regularly updating risk assessments to ensure timely and informed decision-making.

### Sources:

1. 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>
2. **BlueDot** (2024, November 5). BlueDot Portal. Available at: <https://portal.bluedot.global/>
3. **New York Times** (2024, November 5) *Britain Confirms Two Cases of Newer Type of Mpox*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/05/world/europe/uk-mpox.html>
4. **VOA News** (2024, November 5) *WHO: 2 UK mpox cases first local transmissions in Europe*. <https://www.voanews.com/a/who-2-uk-mpox-cases-first-local-transmissions-in-europe/7852677.html>