



# ASEAN BIODIASPORA VIRTUAL CENTER

## DISEASE ALERT

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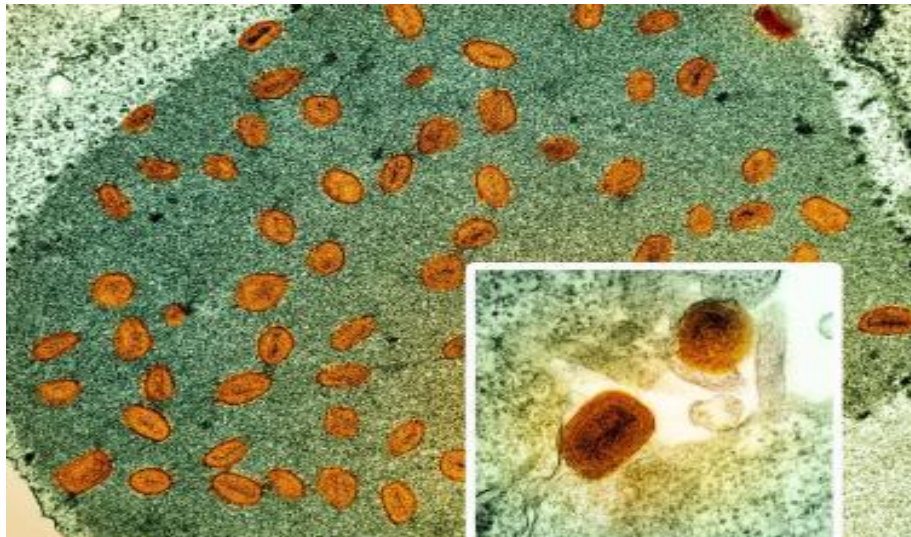
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**First alert: 18 November 2024 | Mpox Clade I in The United States**

### SUB-LOCATIONS AFFECTED

California



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

### Event Description

On November 16, 2024, the California Department of Public Health notified the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the first confirmed case of mpox Clade I in the United States. This diagnosis came from a traveler who had recently visited Eastern Africa, where an ongoing outbreak of mpox Clade I is occurring. This announcement follows a critical alert issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) on August 14, 2024, declaring a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).

The WHO's decision was prompted by escalating mpox outbreaks across several African countries, highlighting the need for global vigilance and coordinated response to this emerging health threat. The patient diagnosed with mpox Clade I received treatment at a local healthcare facility upon returning from Africa and has since been isolated at home while their symptoms show signs of improvement. Public health officials are currently tracing potential contacts to ensure no further transmission occurs within California or the United States.

This development underscores the importance of continued monitoring and preparedness measures against mpox, particularly given its potential severity compared to other strains like Clade II, which was prevalent in the U.S. during previous years.

## Epidemiological Information

California has reported its first known case of clade I mpox in a person who recently returned from East Africa. The patient sought medical care shortly after arriving in the US and was treated at a local facility in San Mateo County. Based on travel history and symptoms, specimens from the patient were tested and confirmed for the presence of clade I mpox virus. Specimens are being sent to CDC for additional viral characterization. The patient is currently in home isolation and showing signs of recovery. Further assessment is needed as there are still many unknown information on this case, including travel history and demographics.

## Response Measures

Health officials are actively tracing and testing potential contacts, but there is no evidence of community spread in the US. The California Department of Public Health and the CDC are monitoring the situation closely. The CDC has stated that the overall risk to the public remains low, as there have been no deaths associated with recent travel-related cases outside of Africa. Historical data suggests that while clade I has historically caused more severe illness, recent outbreaks have shown lower mortality rates when patients receive adequate medical care.

The CDC has assessed the risk of Clade I mpox to the general U.S. population as low. However, the risk is considered low to moderate for men who have sex with men (MSM) with multiple sexual partners. Modeling suggests that close-contact transmission within households is unlikely to lead to widespread outbreaks. CDC recommends vaccination with two doses of JYNNEOS for people in the United States at risk of mpox, as it is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and expected to protect against both clades and all subclades of mpox.

## Sources:

1. **BlueDot.** (2024, November 16). BlueDot Portal. Available at: <https://portal.bluedot.global/>.
2. **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.** (2024, November 16) *California confirms first clade I mpox case.* Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/s1116-california-first-clade.html>
3. **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.** (2024, November 16) *Mpox in the United States and Around the World: Current Situation.* Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/mpox/situation-summary/index.html#:~:text=The%20first%20case%20of%20clade,been%20reported%20at%20th is%20time>
4. **NDTV World** (2024, November 17). *US Reports First Case Of New Mpox Strain 'Clade 1', Public Risk Remains Low.* Available at: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/us-confirms-first-case-of-clade-i-mpox-in-california-public-risk-remains-low-7038628>