



ASEAN BIODIASPORA VIRTUAL CENTER

DISEASE ALERT

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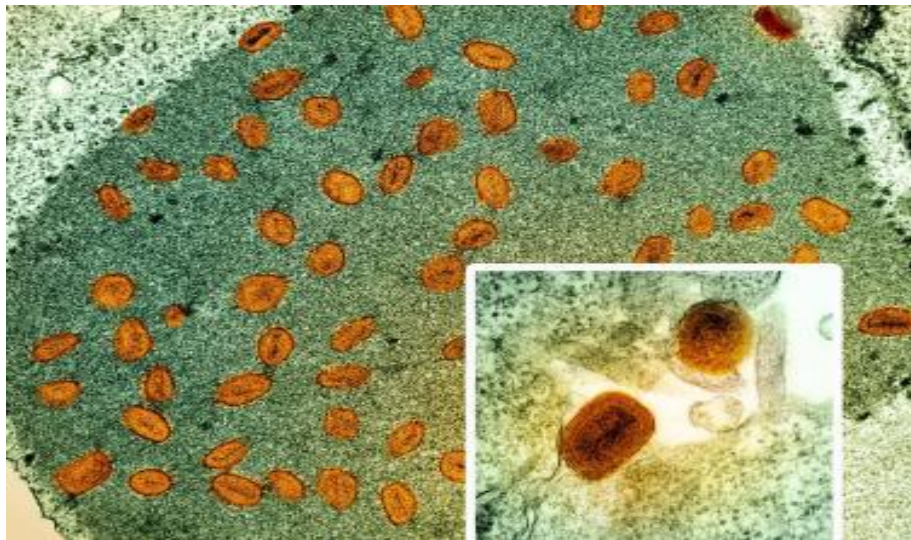
ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTHEAST
ASIAN NATIONS

November 25, 2024 | Issue No. 22

First alert: 25 November 2024 | Mpox Clade Ib in Canada

SUB-LOCATIONS AFFECTED

Manitoba



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

Event Description

On November 22, 2024, Manitoba Health, Seniors, and Long-Term Care confirmed the province's first human case of mpox Clade I, marking Canada's initial detection of this strain. The case involved a traveler who recently returned from Eastern Africa, where an outbreak of mpox Clade I is ongoing. Shortly after the return, the individual was assessed, diagnosed, and began isolation. Testing conducted by the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) confirmed the presence of Clade Ib mpox virus, based on the patient's travel history and clinical symptoms.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) continues to actively monitor the situation and will provide updated information as it becomes available. The PHAC is working closely with public health authorities in Manitoba. The risk to the general population in Canada remains low currently.

Epidemiological Information

The NML notified the province on November 22 that the sample tested positive for mpox clade Ib. While clade II mpox has been circulating in Canada since 2022, this is the first case of clade I mpox confirmed in Canada. A public health investigation, including contact tracing, is underway to identify and mitigate potential transmission risks. Due to privacy considerations, no further details about the case will be disclosed.

Mpox is a viral infection characterized by a painful rash, which can also be accompanied by symptoms like fever, chills, headaches, fatigue, swollen lymph nodes, and pain in the back, joints, and muscles. While it is rare, mpox can sometimes be fatal. The virus is contagious, particularly among people who are in close contact with those showing symptoms or visible lesions. Certain groups are at greater risk for severe illness, including children, pregnant individuals, and those with weakened immune systems, such as people living with HIV or other chronic health conditions.

Currently, vaccination for the public is not recommended. However, for those at high risk of exposure—such as healthcare workers and individuals living with someone infected—vaccination is an important preventive measure. The Government of Canada has enough mpox vaccines available to support efforts across provinces and territories to control and prevent the disease.

Response Measures

Health officials are actively tracing and testing potential contacts, but there is no evidence of community spread. The government categorized the travel health notice risk as level 2: practice enhanced health precautions. Under this category, preventive, control, and response measures for mpox as highlighted in Canada's travel health advisory include the following:

1. **Vaccination:** People at higher risk of exposure to mpox, such as those with potential occupational or close-contact risks, are encouraged to receive pre-exposure prophylaxis if eligible which can be accessed through local public health resources.
2. **Hygiene and Contact Precautions:** Travellers are advised to practice proper hygiene, such as frequent hand washing and avoiding close physical contact with individuals showing symptoms, such as a rash or fever.
3. **Animal Contact:** People are advised to avoid contact with animals that might be infected, especially in areas where mpox cases are prevalent. This includes avoiding consumption of undercooked meat or animal products.
4. **Health Monitoring:** Travellers returning from affected areas should monitor their health for signs of mpox, including rash, fever, or swollen lymph nodes, and seek medical advice if symptoms develop.
5. **Public Health Measures:** Enhanced surveillance, case isolation, and contact tracing are core measures for containing the disease.
6. **Travel Advice:** Stay informed through updated travel notices and avoid non-essential travel to regions with ongoing mpox outbreaks where possible

Sources:

1. **BlueDot** (2024, November 24). BlueDot Portal. Available at: <https://portal.bluedot.global/>.
2. **CBC** (2024, November 22). Manitoba detects 1st confirmed case of recently identified mpox strain in Canada. Available at: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/clade-i-mpox-manitoba-case-1.7391518>
3. **Manitoba Public Information** (2024, November 22). Province Advises First Mpox Clade iB Case Reported in Manitoba. Available at: <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/?archive=&item=66401>
4. **Government of Canada** (2024, November 12). Mpox: Advice for travellers. Available from: <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/travel-health-notices/515>
5. **Public Health Agency of Canada**. (2024, November 22). Public Health Agency of Canada confirms the first case of clade I mpox in Canada [Press release]. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2024/11/public-health-agency-of-canada-confirms-the-first-case-of-clade-i-mpox-in-canada.html>