



ASEAN BIODIASPORA VIRTUAL CENTER

DISEASE ALERT



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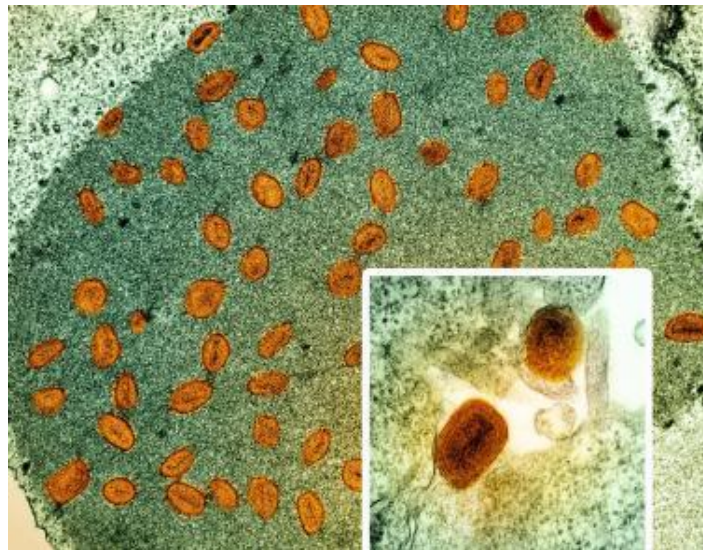
First alert: 31 October 2024

Second alert: 6 November 2024

Third alert: 2 December 2024 | Mpox Clade 1b in The United Kingdom

SUB-LOCATIONS AFFECTED

England (Leeds, London)



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

Event Description

A new case of Clade 1b mpox has been identified in Leeds, England, as confirmed by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA). The individual, who recently returned from Uganda, where Clade 1b mpox is being transmitted within communities, is receiving specialized care at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Further details about the individual are not being disclosed.

According to UKHSA, the risk to the general population remains low, and occasionally imported cases of Clade 1b mpox in the UK are anticipated. This is the fifth confirmed case in England in recent weeks. Unlike the four previous cases, which were from the same household and have all fully recovered, this case has no known links to them. Close contacts of the individual are being monitored by UKHSA and partner organizations. Contacts will be offered testing, vaccination, and guidance on further care if they exhibit symptoms or test positive.

Epidemiological Information

30 October 2024

The UKHSA confirmed the first case of Clade Ib mpox in the UK. This individual, recently returned from Africa where Clade Ib mpox is circulating, was identified in London and transferred to the Royal Free Hospital High Consequence Infectious Diseases (HCID) unit. Clade Ib mpox differs from Clade II, which has been circulating at low levels in the UK since 2022, primarily among GBMSM (gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men).

UKHSA assured the public that the risk to the general population remains low. Contact tracing began for close contacts, with testing, vaccination, and care provided as necessary. Clade Ib is being managed as an HCID while further research is conducted to understand its severity, transmission, and control measures.

4 November 2024

Two additional cases of Clade Ib mpox were confirmed as household contacts of the first case, bringing the total to three. Both patients were admitted to Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in London for specialist care.

UKHSA highlighted that household transmission is common with close contact, but the risk to the broader population remains low. Contact tracing and support for all known contacts continued, and healthcare professionals were prepared to address any further cases.

6 November 2024

A fourth case of Clade Ib mpox, another household contact of the initial case, was confirmed. The patient, already isolating since being identified as a contact, is under care at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.

The four cases have fully recovered and were localized within one household.

29 November 2024

A fifth Clade Ib mpox case has been confirmed in Leeds, West Yorkshire, involving a person recently returned from Uganda with no epidemiological links to the prior household cluster of four cases. The patient is receiving specialized care at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, with further details not being disclosed.

The UKHSA reiterated the low overall risk to the public, emphasizing that further cases within the household were expected due to close contact transmission. All necessary contacts had been traced, and no additional tracing was required. UKHSA continued to monitor the situation while ensuring healthcare readiness and response measures.

Response Measures

The UKHSA maintains that the risk to the 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.

The UK has an established stockpile of mpox vaccines and recently announced plans to procure additional doses to support a routine immunization program, bolstering resilience against mpox outbreaks. This decision aligns with recent recommendations from the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)

Since the outbreak of Clade Ib mpox in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), UKHSA has been closely monitoring the situation in collaboration with international partners and providing regular risk assessment updates. Despite these developments, the overall risk to the UK population remains low.

UKHSA has also released its first technical briefing on Clade I mpox, offering detailed insights into the current outbreak, as well as the UK's preparedness and response measures.

Sources:

1. **BlueDot.** (2024, November 30). BlueDot Portal. Available at: <https://portal.bluedot.global/>.
2. Agency, U. H. S. (2024, November 29). The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) confirms additional cases of Clade Ib mpox. GOV.UK. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-detects-first-case-of-clade-ib-mpox>.
3. Denbighshire Free Press. (2024, November 4). *Two more cases of transmissible Mpox detected in the UK*. Retrieved from <https://www.denbighshirefreepress.co.uk/news/national/24700317.two-cases-transmissible-mpox-detected-uk/>