



ASEAN BIODIASPORA VIRTUAL CENTER

DISEASE ALERT



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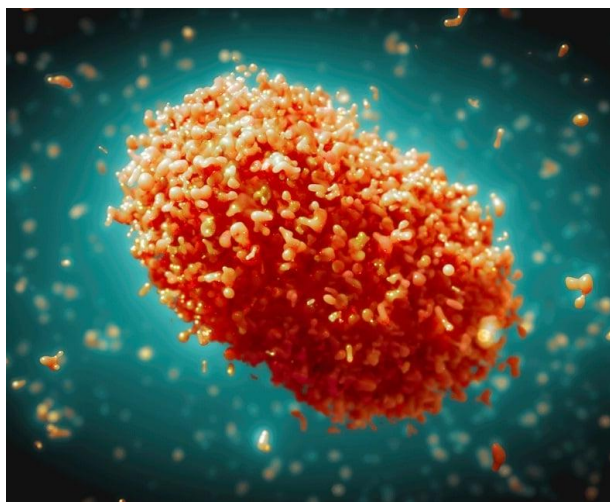
First alert: April 29, 2025 | Mpox in Sierra Leone

Sub-Locations Affected

Western Area Urban, Western Area Rural, Bombali, Tonkolili, Port Loko, Moyamba, Bo, Kambia, and Kerene.

Event Description

As of April 26, 2025, the National Public Health Agency in Sierra Leone reported a rising incidence of mpox cases across the country with 763 cases, including six deaths and 282 were recovered.



Source: <https://www.who.int/indonesia/emergencies/mpox-outbreak>

Epidemiological Information

- On January 11, 2025, Sierra Leone reported its first case of mpox: a 27-year-old man from the Western Area Rural District of the capital city, Freetown.
- On January 16, Following the confirmation of the second case, the Ministry of Health of Sierra Leone declared mpox a public health emergency to expedite response efforts.
- On February 16, 2025, there were 22 confirmed cases of mpox from seven districts with no deaths reported.

- On March 9, 2025, a total of 72 confirmed mpox cases had been reported in Sierra Leone, including one death. Laboratory analysis identified Clade IIb as the circulating strain, the same strain responsible for the 2022–2023 global outbreak.
- As of April 13, 2025, a total of 242 confirmed cases, including two deaths (case fatality rate: 0.8%), have been reported across nine districts nationwide. The most affected areas are Western Area Urban (194 cases) and Western Area Rural (30 cases) districts, both located in the capital city, Freetown, together accounting for 92.6% of all reported cases.
- Between April 25 and 26, 2025, 177 new mpox cases were identified during household screening of suspected individuals.
- As of April 26, 2025, a total of 763 cases had been reported, including six deaths and 282 recoveries.

Response Measure

- Since February, authorities have established four treatment centers in Freetown in response to the concentration of reported mpox cases in the capital.
- Since early April, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the National Public Health Agency (NPHA) and with support from WHO, UNICEF, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Africa CDC, and other health partners, has launched vaccination campaigns targeting frontline healthcare workers, high-risk individuals, and children aged 12 years and older. The campaign followed the arrival of 61,300 vaccine doses from WHO and development partners. To date, over 1,000 people have been vaccinated, the majority being healthcare workers.
- The Ministry of Health has also implemented several measures, including a nationwide public awareness campaign to improve education on mpox, enhanced border surveillance to monitor and limit the entry of new cases, expanded testing capabilities for early detection and response, and strengthened infection prevention and control protocols across healthcare facilities.

Sources:

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3. Ministry of Information and Civic Education. (2025, January 11). *Sierra Leone confirms first Mpox case since global health alert*. Retrieved April 29, 2025, from <https://moice.gov.sl/sierra-leone-confirms-first-mpox-case-since-global-health-alert/>
4. World Health Organization. (2025). *Weekly bulletins on outbreaks and other emergencies*. WHO Regional Office for Africa. Retrieved April 29, 2025, from <https://www.afro.who.int/health-topics/disease-outbreaks/outbreaks-and-other-emergencies-updates>World Health Organization. (2025, February 26). *Sierra Leone bolsters mpox response with 61,300 vaccine doses*. WHO Regional Office for Africa. Retrieved April 29, 2025, from <https://www.afro.who.int/countries/sierra-leone/news/sierra-leone-bolsters-mpox-response-61300-vaccine-doses>
5. World Health Organization. (2025, March 20). *Sierra Leone launches mpox vaccination campaign to curb rising cases*. WHO Regional Office for Africa. Retrieved April 29, 2025, from <https://www.afro.who.int/countries/sierra-leone/news/sierra-leone-launches-mpox-vaccination-campaign-curb-rising-cases>
6. Ministry of Health and Sanitation. (2025, January 16). *Mpox declared a public health emergency in Sierra Leone*. Retrieved April 29, 2025, from <https://moths.gov.sl/mpox-declared-a-public-health-emergency-in-sierra-leone/>

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