



ASEAN BIODIASPORA VIRTUAL CENTER

DISEASE ALERT

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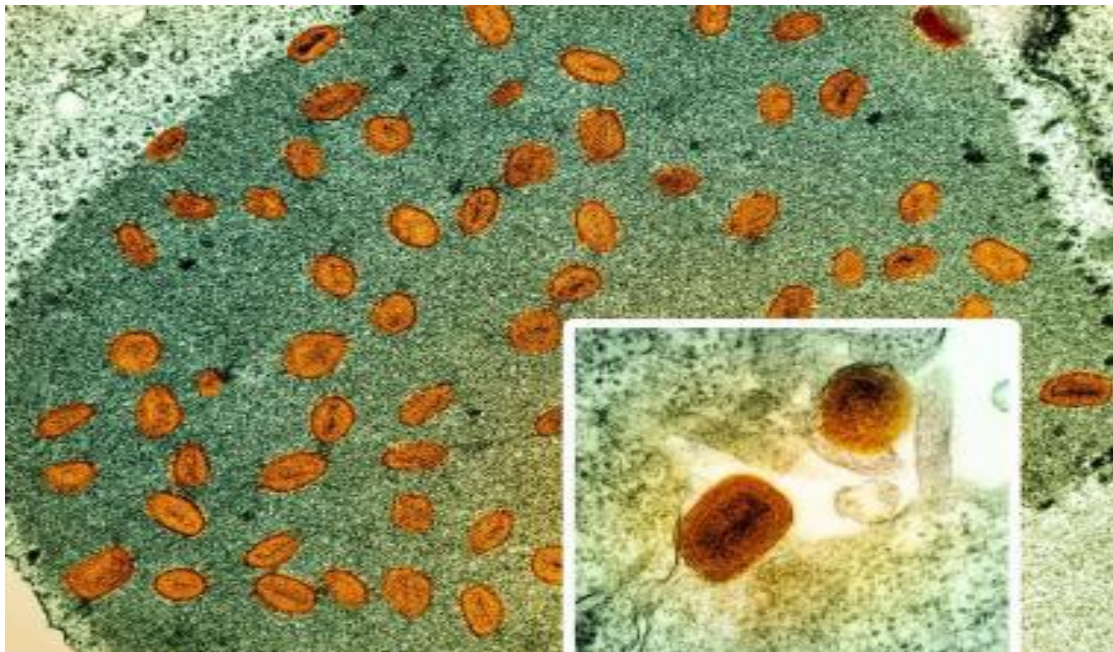
December 17, 2024 | Issue No. 28

First alert: October 23, 2024

Second alert: December 17, 2024 | Mpox Clade Ib in Germany

SUB-LOCATIONS AFFECTED

Nordrhein-Westfalen (Rheinisch-Bergischer Kreis)



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

Event Description

On December 16, 2024, a cluster of mpox virus clade Ib cases were identified in Rheinisch-Bergischer Kreis, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. Following the initial case, three other family members, including two children, contracted the virus. The health department identified potential contacts, including a school class and several colleagues. While the family of four remains in quarantine, no quarantine measures were imposed on the identified contacts. They have been advised to monitor for symptoms and contact the health department if an infection is suspected.

Epidemiological Information

October 22, 2024 (First case reported)

The Robert Koch Institute (RKI) in Germany announced a confirmed case of mpox Clade Ib in the country, marking the second confirmed detection of Clade Ib in the Europe. Investigation revealed that the patient had returned from Rwanda, where the disease was prevalent. The patient recovered after receiving treatment in a hospital.

December 16, 2024 (Second case reported, clustered)

German authorities reported four cases of the clade Ib mpox in Rheinisch-Bergischer Kreis, North Rhine-Westphalia. The disease was probably acquired during travel activities by a family member with close contact with the local population in Africa. Over time, the disease was confirmed in three other family members, including two children.

The health department of the Rheinisch-Bergischer Kreis immediately took the necessary measures. In close coordination with the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) and other health departments involved, contact persons from the school and work environment were identified and contacted. They were also informed about possible symptoms and protective measures.

Response Measures

1. Following strong suspicion of an MPXV clade Ib infection in Germany, a comprehensive public health initiative was launched to curb local mpox transmission. This response involved isolating the infected individual, conducting contact tracing, offering guidance to those in contact with the case, administering post-exposure prophylaxis, fostering collaboration across institutions, and ensuring swift communication with local, regional, and national health authorities in Germany.
2. From the moment the patient was isolated, all healthcare staff attending to the patient's care wore full personal protective equipment (PPE), including gowns, gloves, eye protection and high filtration masks.
3. Students at the special school in Rösrath will switch to distance learning from now through Friday. Following thorough consultations with the RKI and other expert institutions, the health department and school administration opted for this precautionary measure to prioritize the safety of the students.

Sources:

1. **BlueDot** (2024, December 17). BlueDot Portal. Available at: <https://portal.bluedot.global/>.
2. **Bürgerportal** (2024, December 16). Erstmals Mpox in Rhein-Berg nachgewiesen. Available at: <https://in-gl.de/2024/12/16/erstmal-mpox-affenpocken-in-rhein-berg-nachgewiesen/>
3. **Eurosurveillance** (2024, December 16). Response of the German public health service to the first imported mpox clade Ib case in Germany, October 2024. Available at: <https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2024.29.28.2400743>
4. **RBK Direkt** (2024, December 16). Erster Nachweis von Mpox „Affenpocken“ im Rheinisch-Bergischen Kreis. Available at: <https://www.rbk-direkt.de/news/56650/erster-nachweis-von-mpox-affenpocken-im-rheinisch-bergischen-kreis>