



# ASEAN BIODIASPORA VIRTUAL CENTER

## DISEASE ALERT

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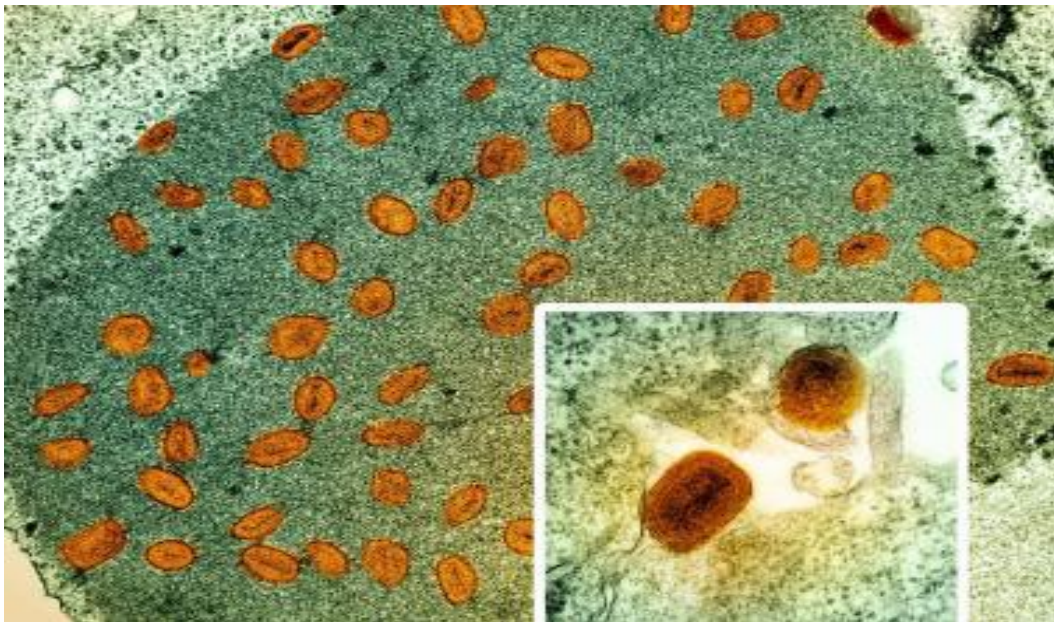
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**First alert: January 10, 2025 | Mpox Clade Ib in Belgium, China, and France**

### SUB-LOCATIONS AFFECTED

Brittany (France), Beijing Shi, Guangdong Sheng, Tianjin Shi, Zhejiang Sheng (China), Unconfirmed location (Belgium)



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

## Event Descriptions

### Belgium

On December 18, 2024, the Belgian health authorities reported a first confirmed case of mpox Clade Ib in the country. Currently, two cases of the new variant have been reported. The situation is under control and the risk of infection for the general population is low.

### China

On January 9, 2025, the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC) announced the detection of the first cluster of human cases of mpox Clade Ib in China.

### France

On January 6, 2025, French health authorities reported the detection of the first human case of mpox Clade Ib in mainland France, located in Brittany. This case represents the first documented occurrence of this sub-variant outside Africa in 2025.

## Epidemiological Information

### Belgium

At the time of this alert, limited information about the cases was provided by official government sources. The first case, confirmed on December 16, 2024, involved an adult with a travel history to an unspecified African country where Clade Ib is known to circulate. Upon arriving in Belgium, the individual voluntarily isolated before receiving a diagnosis, and no high-risk contacts have been identified. The second case was likely confirmed after January 3, as it was not mentioned in the European CDC Communicable Disease Threats Report covering December 28, 2024, to January 3, 2025. No further information is available on whether the second case is linked to the first through local transmission or if it resulted from international travel.

### China

The outbreak in China originated from a foreign traveler with a history of residence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), although specific details regarding locations in China and the DRC, travel dates, and points of entry remain unspecified by the CDC. Rapid prevention and control measures implemented across multiple provinces such as Zhejiang, Guangdong, Beijing, and Tianjin led to the identification of four secondary cases among the index case's close contacts. Transmission occurred exclusively through close personal interactions, such as sexual or household contact or unprotected medical care, with no cases detected among general contacts. Casual interactions, such as shared meals or cohabitation, were deemed to pose minimal transmission risk. All reported cases exhibited mild clinical outcomes, and affected individuals, along with those at potential risk, are currently receiving medical care and health monitoring.

### France

The case involves an individual with no travel history to Central Africa, where mpox Clade Ib has been actively circulating since September 2023. However, epidemiological investigations revealed contact with two individuals who had recently returned from Central Africa. Health authorities are actively investigating the source of the infection and conducting contact tracing efforts. Mpox Clade Ib has been linked to cases in the Democratic Republic of Congo since late 2023 and has led to imported cases in Europe, including Sweden, Germany, the United Kingdom, and most recently Belgium. Similar cases have also been reported in the United States, Canada, and India. In 2024, France documented 215 cases of mpox Clade II, highlighting the ongoing spread of the disease globally.

## Response Measures

### Belgium

Authorities have assessed the risk to the public as low, given the individual's isolation and the absence of high-risk contact. A vaccine against mpox is available; however, since the risk of contracting the Clade Ib variant is considered very low for the Belgian population, vaccination is currently not offered. Health authorities are evaluating whether the spread of the Clade Ib variant warrants new vaccination campaigns.

## China

Zhejiang, Guangdong, Beijing, and Tianjin swiftly implemented a joint prevention and control mechanism to address the outbreak. This included conducting epidemiological investigations and contact tracing, assessing risks, and ensuring timely diagnosis and treatment of cases. The affected individuals and those identified as at-risk are undergoing medical treatment and health observation. As a result, the outbreak has been effectively managed.

## France

Vaccination recommendations have been revised to prioritize high-risk groups, including men who have sex with men, sex workers, and transgender individuals with multiple partners, with an emphasis on administering booster doses. The detection of mpox Clade 1b has not prompted changes to the overall response strategy. Authorities continue to focus on containment efforts through rigorous contact tracing, isolation of cases, and targeted vaccination campaigns.

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