



ASEAN BIOLOGICAL THREATS SURVEILLANCE CENTRE

DISEASE ALERT



August 1, 2025 | Issue No. 48

First alert : August 1, 2025 | Clade Ib Mpox in China

Sub-Locations Affected

Beijing Shi, Guangdong Sheng, Tianjin Shi, Zhejiang Sheng

Event Description

Since the beginning of 2025 and as of July 31, the World Health Organization (WHO) has recorded 23 cases of Clade Ib mpox in China, including seven linked to travellers from regions with active transmission and 16 appeared from local transmission.

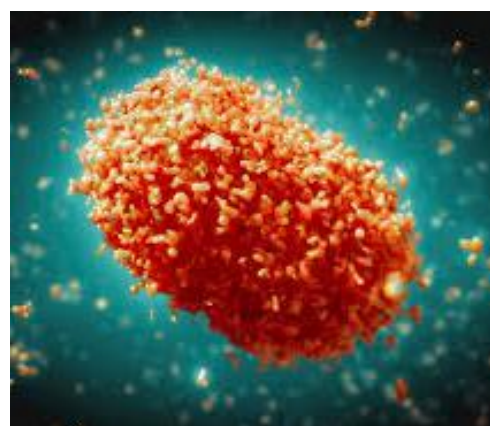


Figure 1. Mpox virus

Epidemiological Information

- As of July 31, 2025, the WHO has recorded 23 cases of Clade Ib mpox in China. Seven of those cases were linked to travelers from regions with active mpox transmission, including Uganda, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). However, there are also cases linked to countries with limited local transmission information, including Nepal and the United Arab Emirates. The remaining 16 cases appear to be from local transmission, but there is limited information regarding the precise setting of exposure.
- On January 11, 2025, the WHO announced the first detection of clade Ib in China, affecting six individuals. The initial case was linked to recent travel to the DRC, while five subsequent cases were identified among close contacts.
- On January 21, 2025, an additional case was notified, involving an individual with a history of recent travel to the United Arab Emirates.
- As of June 27, 2025, China reported a total of 14 cases of Clade Ia mpox, including four new cases, with one case had a recent history of travel to the DRC.

- As of July 11, China reported nine additional Clade Ib mpox cases, bringing the total to 23. Four were linked to a known family cluster, three had recent international travel, one involved sexual contact, and one had contact with a symptomatic individual.

Response Measures

- In response to the clade Ib mpox clusters among travelers and their contacts in recent weeks, the WHO organized a meeting with the International Health Regulations National Focal Point (IHR NFP) and representatives from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC) and the Guangdong Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention to review the situation.
- All clusters were linked to travelers from affected countries, prompting WHO to reclassify China's status from "Unknown Transmission" to "Cases linked to travel." However, in several clusters, index cases were secondary or tertiary contacts, indicating delayed detection and potential missed transmission chains.
- China CDC has implemented wastewater surveillance for mpox in the most affected areas and has disseminated public health communication materials to clinicians and pharmacies, where symptomatic individuals may present for self-medication.

Sources:

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3. WHO. (2025, January 28). *Multi-country outbreak of mpox, External situation report #46 - 28 January 2025*. Retrieved August 1, 2025 from <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/multi-country-outbreak-of-mpox--external-situation-report--46---28-january-2025>
4. WHO. (2025, June 27). *Multi-country outbreak of mpox, External situation report #54 - 27 June 2025*. Retrieved August 1, 2025 from <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/multi-country-outbreak-of-mpox--external-situation-report--54---27-june-2025>
5. WHO. (2025, July 11). *Multi-country outbreak of mpox, External situation report #55 - 11 July 2025*. Retrieved August 1, 2025 from <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/multi-country-outbreak-of-mpox--external-situation-report--55---11-july-2025>
6. WHO. (2025, July 31). *Multi-country outbreak of mpox, External situation report #56 - 31 July 2025*. Retrieved August 1, 2025 from <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/multi-country-outbreak-of-mpox--external-situation-report--56---31-july-2025>

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