



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Councillor Cllr Ennie Makhafola

Member of the Mayoral Committee
Department of Health and Social Development

Media Statement

For Immediate Release

13 May 2024

City of Johannesburg statement on confirmed Monkeypox case in Region G

On 8 May 2024, the City of Johannesburg received a laboratory notification of Mpox (formerly known as Monkeypox) case from Ahmed Kathrada Hospital in Region G.

The case notification was made through the City's Public Health unit disease surveillance. The patient is a 35-year-old male residing in Savana City, Sedibeng District. From the information gathered, the patient does not have any history of travel. The outbreak response team has been dispatched to do case management and contact tracing.

Mpox is an infectious disease caused by the monkeypox virus. It can be transmitted to humans through physical contact with someone who is infectious, with contaminated materials, or with infected animals. Mpox was a declared public health emergency of international concern on 23 July 2022 by WHO Director-General.

In South Africa there have been five unlinked laboratory-confirmed mpox cases reported with no deaths. The cases were in Limpopo (1), Gauteng (2) and Western Cape (2) from June to October 2022. The City of Johannesburg reported one case during the outbreak in 2022 in Region B. The resurgence of the current confirmed case makes the total of Mpox case six in Gauteng.

Globally, since January 2022 to 18 October 2022, 73 436 laboratory-confirmed mpox cases, including 29 deaths, have been reported from 109 countries/areas/territories across all six WHO Regions (European Region, Region of the Americas, Eastern Mediterranean Region, Western Pacific Region, South-East Asia Region, and African Region).

Though the risk of mpox to the general South African public is considered low, healthcare workers should be on high alert and maintain a high index of suspicion for any individuals presenting with an unexplained acute rash or skin lesions and one or more of the following signs or symptoms: Headache, Acute onset of fever ($>38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$), Lymphadenopathy (swollen lymph nodes), Myalgia (muscle pain/body aches), Backache and the following differential diagnoses are excluded: chickenpox, measles, bacterial skin infections, syphilis, molluscum contagiosum, allergic reactions and other locally relevant common cause of popular or vesicular rash. Infection with mpox virus begins with an incubation period where the person does not have symptoms and may feel fine. The incubation period is roughly 1-2 weeks, and a person is not contagious during this period.

Management of Mpox

- Supportive care and pain control.
- Personal hygiene
- Isolation of patient and monitor patients for up to 21 days.

ENDS

For media inquiries, please contact.

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For more information on mpox preparedness and response activities, visit

<https://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/monkeypox/>