

## Current major event

### Monkeypox situation in Eastern Mediterranean Region

Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) is 1 of the 5 (out of 6) Regions reported monkeypox cases. In total, 14 laboratory confirmed cases of monkeypox have been reported from the 2 Member States in EMR, namely United Arab Emirates (UAE) (13 cases) and Morocco (1 case) with no associated death (*see graph*).

#### Editorial note

Monkeypox virus is an orthopoxvirus that causes a disease with symptoms similar, but less severe, to smallpox. While smallpox was eradicated in 1980, monkeypox continues to occur in countries of central and west Africa. Two distinct clade are identified: the west African clade and the Congo Basin clade, also known as the central African clade. Monkeypox is a zoonosis and cases are often found close to tropical rainforests where there are animals that carry the virus. Human-to-human transmission is limited, but it can be transmitted through contact with bodily fluids, lesions on the skin or on internal mucosal surfaces, such as in the mouth or throat, respiratory droplets and contaminated objects.

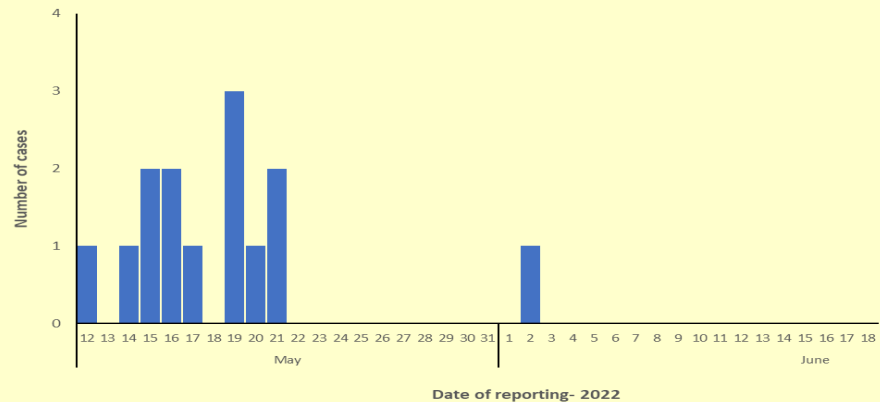
Detection of viral DNA by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is the preferred laboratory test for monkeypox. The best diagnostic specimens are directly from the rash – skin, fluid or crusts, or biopsy where feasible. Antigen and antibody detection methods may not be useful as they do not distinguish between orthopoxviruses.

Since 1 January 2022, cases of monkeypox have been reported to WHO from 42 Member States across 5 WHO Regions (the Regions of the Americas, Africa, Europe, Eastern Mediterranean, and Western Pacific). As of 18 June, a total of 2301 laboratory confirmed cases and one associated death, have been reported to WHO (*See table*).

The outbreak of monkeypox continues to primarily affect men who have sex with men who have reported recent sex with new or multiple partners. While epidemiological investigations are ongoing, most reported cases in the recent outbreak have presented through sexual health or other health services in primary or secondary health care facilities, with a history of travel primarily to countries in Europe, and North America or other countries rather than to countries where the virus was not historically known to be present, and increasingly, recent travel locally or no travel at all.

In EMR the first case was reported on 12 May 2022 from UAE and was linked to

### Trend of reported monkeypox cases in EMR, 12 May to 18 June 2022



### WHO Regions reporting monkeypox cases – June 2022

WHO regions	# of countries	Confirmed case	Deaths
AFRO	6	64	1
AMRO	6	283	
EMRO	2	14	
EURO	14	1893	
WPRO	1	7	
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2301</b>	<b>1</b>

travel to the outbreak affected areas. A total of 13 cases were reported with no associated deaths. Among these 13 cases 11 were males and 2 were females, the median age was 29 years (range: 20 to 44 years). Out of these cases 11 had history of multiple sexual exposure in the last 21 days. The second country reported a monkeypox case was Morocco on 2 June, since then no case has been reported. Other than these laboratory confirmed case, three counties in EMR reported suspected cases, namely Sudan (1), Lebanon (1) and Libya (3). All of these cases are under investigation and results are pending of the samples collected.

WHO encourages countries to strengthen surveillance, contact tracing, isolation, and laboratory testing capacities. Member States should ensure effective communication to raise awareness and avoid stigmatization. Strengthen care pathways with appropriate infection prevention and control (IPC) measures to prevent onwards transmission and deploy medical countermeasures (therapeutics, vaccines) under a research framework to collect clinical efficacy data in humans together with collection of standardized data to document effectiveness and refine use criteria.

### Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

#### COVID-19 in 22 EMR countries

#### Current public health events of concern

[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

#### Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): 2019-2022

Afghanistan	[181 666 (7713), 4.2%]
Bahrain	[603 848 (1491), 0.2%]
Djibouti	[15 690 (189), 1.2%]
Egypt	[514 047 (24 722), 4.8%]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	[7 234 597 (141 363) 2%]
Iraq	[2 331 872 (25 228), 1.1%]
Jordan	[1 698 316 (14 068 ), 0.8%]
Kuwait	[638 708 (2555), 0.4%]
Lebanon	[1 103 264 (10452), 0.9%]
Libya	[502 110 (6430), 1.3%]
Morocco	[1 184 732 (16 086), 1.4%]
occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)	[658 503 (5660), 0.9%]
Oman	[390 244 (4628), 1.2%]
Pakistan	[1 531 982 (30 383), 2%]
Qatar	[374 923 (678), 0.2%]
Saudi Arabia	[783 907 (9185) 1.2%]
Somalia	[26 675 (1361), 5.1%]
Sudan	[62 533 (4950), 7.9%]
Syrian Arab Republic	[55 914 (3150), 5.6%]
Tunisia	[1 046 703 (28 670), 2.7%]
United Arab Emirates	[925 898 (2308), 0.2%]
Yemen	[11 823 (2149), 18.2%]