

## Current major event

### Monkeypox: Public Health Emergency of International Concern

On Saturday 23 July 2022, WHO Director-General determined that the ongoing multi-country outbreak of monkeypox constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). He provided temporary recommendations to the Member States to scale-up the response.

#### Editorial note

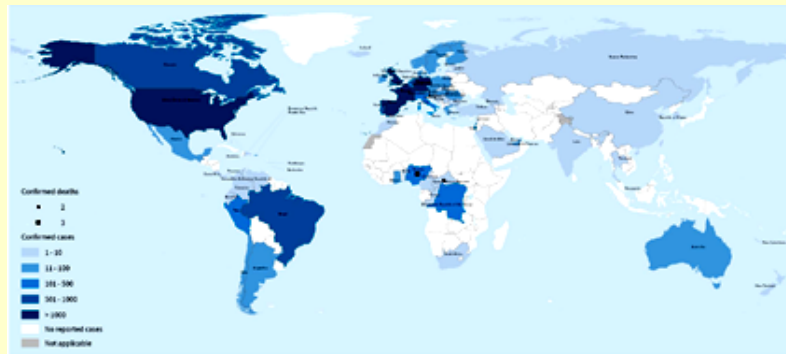
A PHEIC is defined in the International Health Regulation 2005 (IHR) as, “an extraordinary event, which is determined to constitute a public health risk to other states through the international spread of disease and to potentially require a coordinated international response”. (See table).

Since early May 2022, cases of monkeypox have been reported from countries where the disease did not exist previously and it continue to be reported from countries in Central and Western Africa. Most confirmed cases outside Africa do not have travel history within Central and West Africa where the monkeypox virus was reported previously, but many of these cases have travel history within Europe and North America countries. This is the first time that many monkeypox cases and clusters are reported concurrently in non-endemic and endemic countries in a widely disparate geographical areas. Now WHO's six regions have reported monkeypox cases.

In view of the fast spreading of the outbreak and reaching to more than 68 countries globally, the IHR emergency committee convened two meetings under article 48 of the IHR on 25 June and 21 July 2022. The committee comprised of international experts with different nationalities and expertise. Convening the second IHR emergency committee signals an escalation of the level of alert and represents a call for intensified public health actions and response.

After the first IHR emergency committee meeting in 25 June 2022, the outbreak was not declared as PHEIC and the members advised for re-assessment of the situation if the cases continue to increase and spread to other countries. The committee requested state parties to collaborate together and with WHO to provide the required assistance through bilateral, regional or multilateral channels, in accordance with IHR Article 44.

### Geographic distribution of confirmed cases of monkeypox reported to or identified by WHO from official public sources from 1 January to 22 July 2022



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Data Source: World Health Organization  
Map Production: WHO Health Emergencies Programme  
Map Date: 23 July 2022  
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#### The three criteria for declaring a PHEIC

An extraordinary event, that is:

1. Serious, sudden, unusual or unexpected.
2. Carries implications for public health beyond the affected states national border.
3. May require immediate international action.

The second emergency committee meeting was convened on 21 July 2022 in view of the increasing number of cases, fast spreading of the outbreak and reaching more than 68 member states. WHO's Director-General recognized the complexities and uncertainties associated with this public health event. Having considered the views of committee members and advisors, as well as, other factors in line with the IHR, the Director-General determined that the multi-country outbreak of monkeypox constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 23 July 2022.

WHO also alerted fast spreading and international exportation of cases in other countries therefore, advised them to prepare for prevention and containment. This is through active surveillance, early detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of further spread of the virus along with sharing full information with WHO.

WHO is collaborating with health authorities and partners to prevent further spread of the disease, issuing guidance to help countries on surveillance, laboratory work, clinical care, infection prevention and control, as well as, risk communication and community engagement to inform communities at risk and the broader general public about monkeypox and how to stay safe.

#### 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	[184 587 (7738), 4.2%]
Bahrain	[654 873 (1506), 0.2%]
Djibouti	[15 690 (189), 1.2%]
Egypt	[514 659 (24 765), 4.8%]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	[7 319 322 (141 650) 1.9%]
Iraq	[2 427 884 (25 286), 1%]
Jordan	[1 709 879 (14 074 ), 0.8%]
Kuwait	[653 020 (2559), 0.4%]
Lebanon	[1 155 660 (10 506), 0.9%]
Libya	[503 611 (6431), 1.3%]
Morocco	[1 257 320 (16 211), 1.3%]
occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)	[682 096 (5678), 0.8%]
Oman	[395 737 (4628), 1.2%]
Pakistan	[1 550 298 (30 467), 2%]
Qatar	[401 322 (680), 0.2%]
Saudi Arabia	[807 215 (9238) 1.1%]
Somalia	[26 912 (1361), 5.1%]
Sudan	[62 989 (4957), 7.9%]
Syrian Arab Republic	[56 085 (3150), 5.6%]
Tunisia	[1 128 693 (29 041), 2.6%]
United Arab Emirates	[981 657 (2331), 0.2%]
Yemen	[11 849 (2149), 18.1%]