

Current major event

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region Ministerial Meeting on Monkeypox

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region convened a ministerial meeting on 27 July 2022 to brief Member States on the monkeypox situation and discuss recommendations following WHO's Director-General determination on 23 July 2022, that the ongoing multi-country outbreak of monkeypox constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

Editorial note

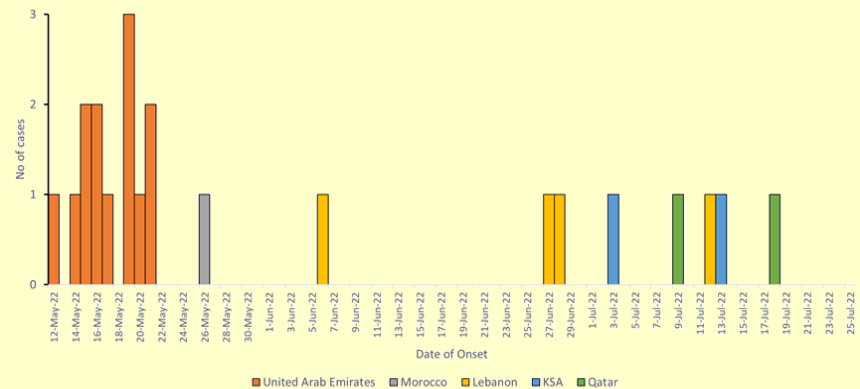
The ministerial meeting that was convened by the Regional Director discussed the global and regional epidemiology and response situation, the International Health Regulation (IHR) Emergency Committee recommendations, the PHEIC Declaration and key priority actions to be considered by the Member States in the Region.

As of 25 July 2022, WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region reported a total of 26 monkeypox cases distributed as follows: United Arab Emirates (16), Morocco (1), Lebanon (4), Saudi Arabia (3) and Qatar (2). No deaths were reported in the Region. Although a few monkeypox cases have been reported, the Region remains at risk due to the fast spread of the outbreak.

The declaration of the monkeypox outbreak as PHEIC is a wake up call for the Member State and partners to scale-up and start on the implementing a coordinated response to stop the transmission of monkeypox virus and protect vulnerable groups, engage and protect affected communities, intensify surveillance and public health and social measures, strengthen clinical management and infection prevention and control in hospitals and other health care facilities, and accelerate research into the use of vaccines, therapeutics, and other tools.

At the regional level, an Incident Management Support Team (IMST) has been activated to lead and coordinate preparedness and response efforts and support countries in areas of disease surveillance. The IMST works on comprehensive case finding, contact tracing, laboratory investigation, clinical management and isolation, risk communication and community engagement, and infection prevention and control.

Distribution of monkeypox cases by country, EMR, 25 July 2022



WHO requests countries to scale up efforts to stop Monkeypox transmission and contain the outbreak by:

- Working with communities to ensure that all people, and especially those who are most at risk, have the information and support they need to protect themselves and others.
- Widening surveillance to stop onward transmission. This will ensure that any potential case of monkeypox is quickly identified, isolated and contacts are traced.
- Reporting all cases to WHO as per country obligations under the IHR to allow accurate monitoring of the disease transmission trends and to be able to quickly scale up capacity when needed.
- Activating relevant emergency management systems procedures to prepare for and respond to this outbreak.

WHO is also working closely with ministries of health in countries where cases are reported to scale-up detection and response capacities. Training has also been conducted in a number of countries to enhance the knowledge and skills among health care professionals for early detection, differential diagnosis, laboratory confirmation and appropriate treatment at health facilities. WHO also took early initiative to procure and it efficiently delivered monkeypox diagnostic kits to 20 countries across the Region, thereby bridging gaps in existing surveillance and detection capacities.

The WHO Regional Office also convened an emergency consultation with representatives from national and regional civil society groups who work with high-risk groups to identify ways to ensure the provision of safe, confidential and non-discriminatory health services, including prevention, early detection, contact tracing, and confidential case management.

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	[185 749 (7748), 4.2%]
Bahrain	[659 224 (1509), 0.2%]
Djibouti	[15 690 (189), 1.2%]
Egypt	[514 891 (24 775), 4.8%]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	[7 381 299 (141 937) 1.9%]
Iraq	[2 443 772 (25 313), 1%]
Jordan	[1 715 296 (14 083), 0.8%]
Kuwait	[653 730 (2559), 0.4%]
Lebanon	[1 172 269 (10 529), 0.9%]
Libya	[504 824 (6431), 1.3%]
Morocco	[1 260 759 (16 234), 1.3%]
occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)	[691 065 (5688), 0.8%]
Oman	[396 722 (4628), 1.2%]
Pakistan	[1 554 591 (30 487), 2%]
Qatar	[407 749 (681), 0.2%]
Saudi Arabia	[809 449 (9250) 1.1%]
Somalia	[26 957 (1361), 5%]
Sudan	[63 074 (4958), 7.9%]
Syrian Arab Republic	[56 279 (3150), 5.6%]
Tunisia	[1 134 660 (29 105), 2.6%]
United Arab Emirates	[990 400 (2334), 0.2%]
Yemen	[11 877 (2151), 18.1%]