

Current major event

Third meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the multi-country outbreak of monkeypox

Monkeypox remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) following recommendations of the third meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) Emergency Committee regarding the multi-country outbreak of monkeypox, held on 20 October 2022.

Editorial note

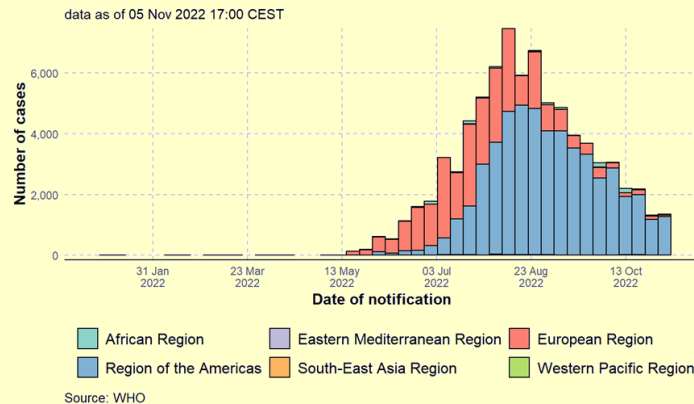
As of 31 October, over 77 000 cases and 36 deaths of monkeypox were reported in about 109 countries. The majority of cases reported in the past 4 weeks were notified from the Region of the Americas (88.7%) and the European Region (7.7%).

The Emergency Committee convened for the third time following the declaration of the PHEIC on 23 July 2022. The Committee acknowledged that while progress has been made in the global response to the multi-country outbreak of monkeypox, including the effectiveness of behavioural interventions and vaccines, the outbreak continues to meet the IHR criteria for a PHEIC (*see primary reasons*).

The Committee noted that data from low-income settings are largely lacking, with scanty information available to determine whether transmission observed in Africa is mainly zoonotic or to determine the role of human-to-human transmission, including through intimate or sexual contact. The Committee noted that in high-income settings, preliminary information suggests significant declines in the number of newly reported cases of monkeypox. However, data needed to determine the respective contributions of various factors to these declines have yet to be fully collected and analysed.

The Committee noted the epidemiological concomitance of monkeypox, HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections. It advised that public health efforts to overcome barriers caused by policies and laws which criminalize homosexuality or otherwise contribute to stigma and discrimination and impede efforts to

Trend of MPX cases globally week 1, 2020 to week 44, 2022



Primary reasons for the PHEIC declaration:

- ongoing transmission in some regions;
- continuing preparedness and response inequity within and between countries;
- emerging potential for greater health impact in vulnerable populations;
- continuing risk of stigma and discrimination;
- weak health systems in some developing countries leading to under-reporting;
- ongoing lack of equitable access to diagnostics, antiviral and vaccines, and research gaps needing to be addressed.

control the outbreak. It was also recommended that global and national programmes should continue to engage with affected communities, work towards 1) integrating monkeypox outbreak response with HIV prevention and sexual health services where appropriate and 2) continue to strive for greater strategic support and research for most-affected countries.

In conclusion, the Committee collectively advised the WHO Director-General that the multi-country outbreak of monkeypox continues to meet the criteria included in the definition of the PHEIC provided by Article 1 of the IHR. The Committee also provided their advice for the Temporary Recommendations to States Parties, which to a large extent continued those issued on 23 July 2022 by the WHO Director-General. The committee indicated the need to monitor the level of uptake and degree of implementation of Temporary Recommendations by States Parties, to complement the other modalities and programmatic approaches that are in place to support and monitor country outbreak response.

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	[203 732 (7826), 3.8%]
Bahrain	[691 509 (1520), 0.2%]
Djibouti	[15 690 (189), 1.2%]
Egypt	[515 412 (24 798), 4.8%]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	[7 558 078 (144 592) 1.9%]
Iraq	[2 461 663 (25 361), 1%]
Jordan	[1 746 997 (14 122), 0.8%]
Kuwait	[662 359 (2569), 0.4%]
Lebanon	[1 219 141 (10 713), 0.9%]
Libya	[507 060 (6437), 1.3%]
Morocco	[1 265 965 (16 281), 1.3%]
occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)	[703 036 (5708), 0.8%]
Oman	[398 775 (4628), 1.2%]
Pakistan	[1 574 359 (30 627), 1.9%]
Qatar	[471 004 (684), 0.1%]
Saudi Arabia	[823 494 (9417) 1.1%]
Somalia	[27 243 (1361), 5%]
Sudan	[63 558 (4978), 7.8%]
Syrian Arab Republic	[57 368 (3163), 5.5%]
Tunisia	[1 146 702 (29 263), 2.6%]
United Arab Emirates	[1 039 090 (2348), 0.2%]
Yemen	[11 945 (2159), 18.1%]