

Special Briefing: Current Mpox Outbreak in Congo (DRC) and Global Spread Risk

16 August 2024

Overview

A rapidly expanding outbreak of mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) in Congo (DRC), involving multiple virus strains and various transmission routes, has spread into other countries in Africa and may spread further, including to other regions of the world. This situation prompted the Africa CDC to declare a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security (PHECS) on 13 August. The following day, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared mpox

In outbreak situations vaccination may be reserved for people at highest risk, including healthcare workers, household contacts and intimate partners.

Prevention

In addition to vaccination, prevention is through:

- Observing good personal hygiene:
 - o Washing hands well and often.
 - o Avoiding skin-to-skin contact, including avoiding crowds and minimising bare skin if likely to be in crowded environments.
 - o Avoiding contact with objects and materials that may be contaminated with mpox (used towels, bed linen).
- Preventing sexual transmission:
 - o Limiting the number of sexual partners.
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