

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: Editors & Health Journalists
 Issued by: Department of Health
 Date: Friday, 14 June 2024

UPDATE ON MPOX OUTBREAK

Pretoria: The Department of Health urges all people taking medication for any health condition to adhere to treatment as per guidance of the healthcare provider to minimise the risk of serious health complications in case they contract mpox and other diseases.

As the total number of mpox positive cases increases to seven, the Department has noted that all cases/patients are living with chronic illness such as HIV, which suggests a high probability of immunocompromised unless if adherent to prescribed treatment. Treatment adherence can prevent new or worsening health problems, and failure to adhere to your prescriptions can negatively impact the quality of your life.

The latest confirmed case is a 39-year-old male patient who was admitted on 28 May 2024 at local private health facility in Cape Town, Western Cape who tested positive for mpox on Thursday, 13 June 2024 by a private laboratory. The patient presented with extensive lesions and he is RVD positive with unknown CD4. Just like case number six, the latest patient listed his residential address as Northcliff, Gauteng.

Meanwhile department is scheduled to receive a batch of mpox treatment, tecovirimat which has been described to effective to prevent morbidity and mortality associated with mpox, especially when initiated within few days of incubation and diagnosis.

Breakdown of the cases

Cases	Confirmation	Area/Province	Age	Gender	Hospitalised
Case 1	8 May 2024	Sedibeng, GP	35	Male	Yes
Case 2	21 May 2024	eThekwini, KZN	39	Male	Yes
Case 3	31 May 2024	eThekwini, KZN	30	Male	Yes
Case 4	03 June 2024	eThekwini, KZN	33	Male	Yes
Case 5	07 June 2024	Tembisa, GP *	37	Male	Yes
Case 6	12 June 2024	uMgungundlovu, KZN*	38	Male	Yes
Case 7	13 June 2024	Cape Town, WC	39	Male	Yes

The department working closely with other stakeholders will continue with surveillance, contact tracing and health education activities across the country to determine the burden of the disease and empower citizens with information to make well informed health choices. The effectiveness of contact tracing and case finding depends on the cooperation and accuracy of information provided by both confirmed and suspected cases.

Some of the common symptoms of Mpox include a rash which may last for 2–4 weeks, fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy and swollen glands (lymph nodes). The painful rash looks like blisters or sores, and can affect the face, palms of the hands, soles of the feet, groin, genital and/or anal regions.

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