

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: Editors & Health Journalists
 Issued by: Department of Health
 Date: Thursday, 20 June 2024

Department welcomes the first batch of mpox treatment as cases increase

Pretoria: The Department of Health has received a batch of mpox specific treatment, Tecovirimat (also known as TPOXX or ST-246) for treatment of patients who experience severe health complications as a result of mpox disease. The process to secure more treatment including vaccine is underway in case the need arises.

However, all mild cases will continue to be managed with supportive treatment used to manage complications like fever, pneumonia and skin infections. The department urges all people regardless of gender, age, sexual orientation, with suspected mpox symptoms or who had physical contact with known cases to present themselves at the healthcare facility for clinical evaluation because anyone can contract this preventable and treatable disease.

The country has detected six more laboratory-confirmed cases of mpox (previously known as monkey pox). This brings the total number of cases from 7 to 13 cases. Seven of the cases were confirmed in KwaZulu-Natal, five in Gauteng and one in the Western Cape.

Hand hygiene is one of the effective ways to protect people from getting sick and prevent transmission of the diseases, hence people are reminded to always wash hands with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially before eating or touching your face and after you use the bathroom.

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, etc.

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
Case 8	14 June 2024	eThekwini, KZN	23	Male	Yes
Case 9	14 June 2024	Johannesburg, GP	27	Male	Yes
Case 10	14 June 2024	Pretoria, GP	30	Male	Yes
Case 11	14 June 2024	Soweto, GP	38	Male	Yes
Case 12	16 June 2024	eThekwini, KZN	28	Male	Yes
Case 13	19 June 2024	eThekwini, KZN	39	Male	Yes

For more information and media enquiries, please contact:

Mr Foster Mohale
 Health Departmental Spokesperson
 0724323792
Foster.mohale@health.gov.za

Mr Doctor Tshwale
 063 657 8487
Doctor.tshwale@health.gov.za