

## MEDIA STATEMENT

To: Editors & Health Journalists  
 Issued by: Department of Health  
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### More Mpox patients receive clean bill of health as new cases confirmed

**Pretoria:** The Department of Health is pleased to announce that 11 of the total number of Mpox cases have received a clean bill of health, while 6 remain hospitalised due to severe health complications compounded by either unmanaged or recently diagnosed underlying conditions such as HIV. This includes one case that was discharged and later re-admitted for further medical attention.

This is a testimony that Mpox is a treatable disease if diagnosed early for effective treatment, hence people are urged to seek health care once they experience Mpox-like symptoms or came into direct contact with someone who tested positive. The Department, working with various stakeholders continues with efforts to curb the spread/transmission of Mpox in the country.

The country has recorded four more laboratory-confirmed cases in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal provinces. The recent cases include a 17-year-old man from Hillbrow in Johannesburg; a 37-year-old man from Pretoria East; a 29-year-old man from West Rand; and a 19-year-old man from Durban in KwaZulu-Natal.

This brings the total number of positive cases of Mpox in South Africa to 20 and three deaths since the outbreak of the disease in May 2024. Ten cases were recorded in Gauteng, nine cases in KwaZulu-Natal and one from Western Cape. Outbreak response teams have been activated for the newly diagnosed cases. All cases are male, aged between 17- 43 years old.

Meanwhile, another batch of Mpox specific treatment (Tecovirimat) is expected to be arrive in the country in the next few weeks as the number of cases is also expected to rise due to intensified contact tracing, risk communication and community engagement activities in the affected communities. The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) has received over 130 test requests since the outbreak of Mpox in South Africa.

### Breakdown of the cases

Cases	Confirmation	Province	Age	Gender	Hospitalised
Case 1	8 May 2024	GP	35	Male	Yes
Case 2	21 May 2024	KZN	39	Male	Yes
Case 3	31 May 2024	KZN	30	Male	Yes
Case 4	03 June 2024	KZN	33	Male	Yes
Case 5	07 June 2024	GP *	37	Male	Yes
Case 6	12 June 2024	KZN*	38	Male	Yes
Case 7	13 June 2024	WC	39	Male	Yes
Case 8	14 June 2024	KZN	23	Male	Yes
Case 9	14 June 2024	GP	27	Male	Yes
Case 10	14 June 2024	GP	30	Male	Yes
Case 11	14 June 2024	GP	38	Male	Yes
Case 12	16 June 2024	KZN	28	Male	Yes
Case 13	19 June 2024	KZN	39	Male	Yes

Case 14	21 June 2024	GP	29	Male	Yes
Case 15	22 June 2024	GP	43	Male	Yes
Case 16	23 June 2024	KZN*	40	Male	No
Case 17	01 July 2024	GP	17	Male	Yes
Case 18	02 July 2024	KZN	19	Male	No
Case 19	02 July 2024	GP	37	Male	Yes
Case 20	02 July 2024	GP	29	Male	Yes

The Department appeals to all contacts of confirmed cases and suspected cases to cooperate with health workers during contact tracing, screening and 21-day monitoring period, to ensure no case is left undetected. Contact tracing is one of the critical tools available to effectively break the chains of local transmission and control the Mpox outbreak.

All people with suspected symptoms are reminded to visit the nearest healthcare facility right away for clinical evaluation, diagnosis and treatment options, instead of self-diagnosing and isolation.

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 rash looks like blisters or sores, and can affect the face, palms of the hands, soles of the feet, etc.

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