



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

PRESS STATEMENT (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

24th September 2024

UPDATE ON THE MPOX SITUATION IN KENYA

The Ministry of Health is committed to keeping the public informed on the ongoing Mpox outbreak in Kenya. Today, the Ministry provides the latest update on the situation and reiterates the importance of following preventive measures to control the spread of the virus. **Mpox Situation in Kenya**

The Ministry of Health wishes to report that **two (2)** new Mpox cases have been confirmed in the past 24 hours from Makueni and Kajiado Counties respectively, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to **seven (7)**. The confirmed Mpox cases are distributed countrywide as follows: **Taita Taveta (1), Busia (1), Nairobi (1), Mombasa (1), Nakuru (1), Makueni (1) and Kajiado (1)**.

No deaths have been reported among the confirmed cases. Sixty-one (61) contacts for the first five (5) cases were identified, listed, traced and monitored and completed the recommended 21-day follow-up period. Only one (1) of the contacts tested positive for Mpox during the follow-up period. Contact tracing for the two newly confirmed cases is currently ongoing in the affected Counties.

Further, in the last 24 hours, **16,033** travellers have been screened at Points of Entry (POEs), contributing to a cumulative total of **1,002,621** travellers screened across the **26** POEs since the outbreak began. The National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) has tested **190** samples from **28** counties, with **seven (7)** testing positive, **178** negative, and **five (5)** samples currently being tested.

Preventive Measures

The Ministry urges members of the public to continue observing the following recommended Mpox prevention measures:

1. Avoid close physical contact with infected individuals or persons showing symptoms of Mpox.

2. Do not touch items such as bedding or clothing that have been used by an infected individual.
3. Limit the number of sexual partners to reduce the risk of exposure.
4. Wash hands regularly with soap and water, or use alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
5. Avoid contact with wild animals and refrain from consuming bushmeat.

Combating Misinformation

The Ministry is deeply concerned with the misinformation and disinformation circulating on social media platforms on Mpox, particularly regarding Mpox vaccination. The public is strongly advised to disregard any inaccurate or misleading information that could undermine public health efforts and lead to unnecessary fear, confusion and panic.

To counter the negative effects of misinformation and disinformation, we urge Kenyans to prevent the spread of potentially harmful information, seek accurate information from credible sources, keep vigilant and question the validity of the content they encounter online. The Ministry will continue to provide regular updates as more information becomes available, to ensure the public is well-informed.

Government Action

The Ministry of Health continues to collaborate with County Governments and partners to strengthen efforts to contain the Mpox outbreak and control the further spread of cases, including through enhanced surveillance, contact tracing, and diagnostic testing and public awareness campaigns to promote public safety and ensure that all necessary measures are in place.

The Ministry of Health thanks all Kenyans for their cooperation, and remains steadfast in its commitment to closely monitor the outbreak situation and take all necessary measures to keep the country safe and safeguarding the health of all Kenyans.

For more information or assistance, please contact the Ministry hotline at 719 or 0729 471414 / 0732 353535.



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