



Mpox Scenario-Based Human Health Risk Assessment for the United States as of 8 January 2025 – Clade II

Currently,* the Center for Outbreak Response Innovation (CORI) judges the ongoing sporadic mpox infections in humans in the United States to be in **Scenario 3, meaning the virus circulating in the United States is the same clade (clade IIb) that expanded globally in 2022, and cases of clade IIb are growing globally, though at a slower rate than earlier in the year. Reports of new cases have been steadily declining over the last 2 months. The increase in reported cases of IIb across Africa indicates an increased risk for heightened spread to the US.**

This judgment is based on available data from ongoing mpox case reporting to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Africa CDC, WHO, and wastewater surveillance.

While the US is no longer in Scenario 2 (surge of clade II cases during the fall in the US), the recent increase of clade II mpox cases across Africa increase the likelihood of new imported cases and clusters of viral spread. The US should still be on heightened alert for increased clade II spread through travel and local transmission over the coming weeks and months.

See the detailed risk assessment beginning on the next page for further information. Appendices and regularly updated situation report and epi curve available [here](#).

Scenario-Based Human Health Risk Assessment for the US

	Risk to MSM community	Risk to sex workers	Risk to healthcare workers	Risk to general public
Scenario 3 – Autumn Case Dropoff	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low

Our **confidence** in these risk scores is **moderate**.

To minimize the transmission of clade IIb clade in the US, CDC and WHO recommend the following:

- All individuals with an [increased risk of infection](#) should receive 2 doses of JYNNEOS vaccine.
- [Clinicians should consider mpox](#) when lesions consistent with mpox are observed in a patient, even if an alternate etiology (eg, herpes simplex virus, syphilis) is considered more likely.
- Healthcare professionals should [wear all recommended personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) when completing mpox testing.

*This document will be updated only when new information becomes available that could change our assessment.



Mpox Scenario-Based Human Health Risk Assessment for the United States

Center for Outbreak Response Innovation (CORI)

Updated as of January 8, 2025

Clade 2 updates since the last update on November 19, 2024:

- Clade IIb Mpox cases in the US continue to grow, with the [US reporting](#) 34,349 cases and 63 deaths as of November 30, 2024.
- The US [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#) has [determined](#) that while safe, Tecovirimat does not reduce lesion resolution time or reduce pain associated with the infection and has halted the clinical trial.
- A [MMWR from October 10, 2024](#) discussed a second cluster of mpox cases in the US that were caused by tecovirimat-resistant monkeypox virus.
- [Mpox outbreaks](#) continue to be reported across the globe, including clade II outbreaks in [Australia](#), Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, South Africa, Morocco, and Nigeria.

The risk assessment has been revised to include new scenarios that separate clade I and II to help differentiate the risk between each clade of Mpox spread beyond the scope of the original risk assessment and new evaluations are necessary. CORI judges that the current Mpox scenario is in scenario 1, with continued heightened transmission of clade II Mpox in the US as the summer comes to a close.

CORI has identified 3 key scenarios that may shape the risk of clade II mpox in the US for the upcoming year. These scenarios consider the health risks of clade II, taking into account the differing impacts to various population groups as clade II circulates within the US.

Features that would characterize each scenario include:

- **Scenario 1 – Baseline:** Cases of clade IIb continue to grow in the US as seen in the past 6 months
- **Scenario 2 – Autumn Surge:** Clade IIb cases surge in the US, vaccination rates remain at current rate, with only [23-37% of at-risk populations fully vaccinated](#).
- **Scenario 3 – Autumn case drop off:** Clade II cases in the US fall to pre-2024 levels, due to either reduced transmission or increased levels of vaccination among key population groups.

****Please note:** We are evaluating the risks to human health should each scenario occur, **not** the relative risk of any one scenario occurring. This risk assessment will be updated regularly.*



Currently, CORI judges that the ongoing sustained mpox infections in humans in the United States is in scenario 3, meaning the virus currently circulating in the United States is the same clade (clade IIb) that expanded globally in 2022, while reports of new cases have been declining for the past 2 months.

This judgment is based on [available data](#) from ongoing mpox case reporting to CDC and [wastewater surveillance](#). As of June, 2024, the [CDC has reported](#) steady decline in new pox cases nationally and the reported cases continue to be predominately among individuals within the MSM community and who are unvaccinated or under vaccinated, indicating that the [outbreak epidemiology has remained consistent](#). [CDC also reports](#) that, except for one case in California, all patients with confirmed mpox who undergo clade testing have tested positive for [clade IIb](#). In late 2023, CDC enhanced wastewater surveillance for clade IIb, increasing testing locations to a total of 186 sites across 32 jurisdictions.

Notably, increases in cases or clusters of cases during the summer and autumn may increase the health risk posed to certain populations, as described in the scenario-based risk assessments below.

Mpox Human Health Risk Assessment Scenario Table for the US Population

Table 1. Clade IIb

	Risk to MSM community	Risk to sex workers	Risk to healthcare workers	Risk to general public
Scenario 1 – Baseline	Low-Moderate	Low-Moderate	Low	Low
Scenario 2 –Autumn surge	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low
Scenario 3- Autumn decline	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low

Methods: The purpose of this document is to consider possible future developments in this outbreak and describe corresponding risks to human populations should a given scenario occur. In each scenario, we consider the risk to 4 distinct populations: the community of men who have sex with men (MSM), sex workers, healthcare workers, and the general public.

In determining the risks to the health of each population, we considered several factors such as primary transmission pathways, current morbidity and mortality, and the primary demographics and geographies currently affected. We also assessed the extent of the current outbreak to determine if cases are sporadic, in clusters, or if there is low or high ongoing community transmission. Other factors considered include events that could increase human-to-human transmission (eg, mass gatherings, seasonal trends, school terms, etc.); the availability and effectiveness of treatments and vaccines; nonpharmaceutical measures to lower the risk of human-to-human transmission, such as personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers; the potential impact of animal



reservoirs; and ongoing public health preparedness and response operations to address outbreaks. We use a five-tiered system to identify risk levels including: low; low-moderate; moderate; moderate-high; and high.

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