

Press release

Geneva, 30 May 2022

Monkeypox

FIRST GENOMIC SEQUENCING OF MONKEYPOX IN SWITZERLAND

The [Geneva Centre for Emerging Viral Diseases](#) of the Geneva University Hospitals (HUG) and the University of Geneva (UNIGE) has publicly made available the full monkeypox virus DNA sequence from the two first cases identified in Switzerland, on the 21st and 24th of May 2022.

The Geneva Centre for Emerging Viral Diseases shares the first sequencing results of the monkeypox genome from Switzerland.

This important step will enable further analysis and comparison with genome sequences from other countries. According to preliminary results, the virus sequence of the first two cases in Switzerland is genomically linked to cases reported in several other countries in the context of the current outbreak. The [National Reference Laboratory for Emerging Viruses](#) (CRIVE) team shares its genome with the scientific community, via the [Platform Genbank](#).

Four cases of monkeypox have been confirmed by PCR test in Switzerland by the [Virology Laboratory at HUG](#), part of the CRIVE, which is mandated by the [Swiss Federal Office of Public Health](#) (FOPH) to monitor that type of event.

Those cases are part of a larger and unusual outbreak that is ongoing in multiple countries in Europe, South and North America and Australia with more than 400 confirmed cases, according to World Health Organization (WHO), since the reporting of the first case in the United Kingdom on the 7th of May 2022.

The virus can be identified with a PCR test, especially from affected lesions and other samples. Diagnosis is based to date on tests developed by specialized laboratories such as the one in Geneva. To enable other laboratories in Switzerland and around the world to integrate this test into their portfolio of Orthopoxvirus tests, CRIVE is [sharing its protocol](#).

The CRIVE is closely monitoring the situation and is available for all diagnostic requests related to this outbreak.

HD photo available on request



Caption : MinION, Nucleic acid sequencing system that provides real-time results.

For more information

HUG, Press and PR Department
presse-hug@hcuge.ch
+41 22 372 37 37

UNIGE, Media Department
media@unige.ch
+41 22 379 77 96

The HUG: Care, Teaching, and leading-edge Research

The Geneva University Hospital (HUG) comprises [eight public hospitals and two clinics](#). Theirs missions are to provide health care to the community in all medical specialties, to help train physicians and health professionals, and to conduct medical and clinical research. The HUG operate as a national reference centre for [influenza](#), [emerging viral infections](#), [meningococcus](#), and transplant immunology, and are the [national reference laboratory for histocompatibility](#). They are also a WHO Collaborating Centre [in six areas](#), as well as [Centres of Excellence](#) in a number of sectors. The HUG treat 275,000 patients each year, with a capacity of 2,109 hospital beds, and employ 12.800 people.

More information on [publications-hug](#)
www.hug.ch – presse-hug@hcuge.ch

About the University of Geneva

The University of Geneva, Switzerland, was founded in 1559 by Jean Calvin and Théodore de Bèze and ranks amongst the top 100 best universities in the world. It enjoys worldwide recognition and develops an ever-strengthening international network. The University of Geneva welcomes about 19'000 students in its nine faculties teaching Sciences, Medicine, Humanities, Economics and Management, Social Sciences, Law, Theology, Psychology and Educational Sciences, as well as Translation and Interpreting. The University of Geneva fulfils three missions: education, research and knowledge-sharing. It is a member of the League of European Research Universities since 2002 and is a founding partner of Campus Biotech, the life science hub for the Geneva Lake region.
www.unige.ch