



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

PRESS STATEMENT

UGANDA CONFIRMS EBOLA BUNDIBUGYO VIRUS DISEASE OUTBREAK

15TH MAY, 2026

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15TH MAY 2026, Kampala. The Ministry of Health has today, confirmed Ebola Bundibugyo Virus Disease outbreak.

The case is of a 59-year-old Congolese male who was admitted at Kibuli Muslim Hospital on 11th May, 2026. He presented with Respiratory distress, Episodes of fevers, epigastric pain, nausea, fever and had challenges of passing urine. While in admission, he deteriorated and died on 14th May, 2026 in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) with bleeding symptoms. The body was reportedly taken at 8pm back on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on the same day.

On the 15th May, 2026 the Ministry of Health received reports of suspected Ebola Disease (EVD) from Public Health Authorities in DRC. The Ministry took a decision to test an earlier obtained sample from the deceased during his care. The sample was taken for testing at the Central Emergency Surveillance and Response Support laboratory in Wandegeya where it was confirmed as Ebola Bundibugyo. This is an imported case from DRC. The country has not yet confirmed a local case.

The Ministry of health has activated the response and taken the following steps;

- Deployed screening, surveillance, and rapid response readiness teams at official and informal points of entry, especially along the western border, major transit routes, and pilgrimage corridors.
- Activated response at National Level and in high-risk districts, including deployment of mobile laboratory in Bwera Hospital, isolation arrangements, infection prevention and control, and risk communication.
- Isolated one high risk contact who is a close relative to the deceased.
- Currently quarantining all the contacts who came into contact with the index case.



The Ministry of Health remains fully engaged and will continue to provide timely updates while implementing all necessary measures to protect the people of Uganda.

ABOUT EBOLA

Ebola is a viral, acute disease that can turn fatal if left untreated. Ebola is transmitted through;

- close contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected animals such as fruit bats, chimpanzees, gorillas, monkeys, forest antelope or porcupines found ill or dead or in the rainforest
- human-to-human transmission via direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with:
 - Blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with or has died from Ebola
 - Objects that have been contaminated with body fluids (like blood, feces, vomit) from a person sick with Ebola or the body of a person who died from Ebola

Symptoms of Ebola: A suspected case of Ebola may present with any of the following symptoms:

- sudden onset fever
- fatigue
- chest pain
- diarrhea
- vomiting
- unexplained bleeding
- yellowing of eyes
- Bleeding manifestation is usually a late presentation after the above symptoms.

APPEAL TO HEALTH WORKERS

The Ministry of Health urges all health workers to have the highest index of suspicion and maintain heightened safety precautions. Private clinics are encouraged to observe the Standard Operating Procedures and report



any suspected case to the nearest district health authorities for further investigations and management.

APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC

The public is urged to avoid physical contacts with anyone showing the above symptoms, continue with washing hands and maintain good hand hygiene at all times. Avoid contact with body fluids that include urine, blood, sweat, saliva, vomitus, and stool.

In case you or your colleague develop any of the above symptoms of Ebola virus disease, you are advised to seek appropriate health care services immediately

Handling of dead bodies suspected to have Ebola like symptoms should be supervised by the health team and undergo a safe and dignified burial to prevent further spread within the communities.

All public places in the country are argued to institute hand washing facilities at their premises.

For any suspected case, please call Ministry of Health toll free line on **0800- 100- 066** and free SMS to **6767**.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

Dr. Diana Atwine
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Health