



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak in Ituri Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo: Public Health Advisory

The Ministry of Health wishes to inform the public of a confirmed outbreak of **Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)** in Ituri Province, in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Laboratory testing has confirmed Ebola virus in **13 out of 20 samples tested**, with preliminary findings indicating a **non-Zaire ebolavirus strain**, while further genomic sequencing is ongoing. As at **15th May 2026**, **246 suspected cases and 65 deaths** have been recorded, including **four (4) deaths among confirmed cases**. The affected areas are in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, within a region characterized by significant cross-border movement through neighbouring countries, including Uganda and South Sudan, with onward travel connections across East Africa, including Kenya.

What this means for Kenyans

- **Kenya has not recorded any case of Ebola Virus Disease as of 16th May 2026.**
- The Government is closely monitoring the evolving situation together with regional and international public health partners.
- While the overall risk to the Kenyan public remains low, there is a **moderate risk of importation** into the country due to regional travel, trade, and population movement.

What is Ebola Virus Disease?

Ebola Virus Disease is a **severe** and **often fatal** illness caused by the Ebola virus. It spreads through direct contact with:

- **Blood or body fluids of an infected person**
- **Contaminated surfaces or materials**
- **Infected animals or wildlife products**

People are not infectious until they develop symptoms.

Symptoms to watch for

Symptoms may appear suddenly and can include:

- Fever
- Severe weakness and fatigue
- Headache and muscle pain
- Vomiting or diarrhoea
- Stomach pain
- Unexplained bleeding or bruising in severe cases

Early medical attention significantly improves the chances of survival and helps prevent further spread.

What the Government is doing

The Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Health, has activated enhanced preparedness and response measures, including:

- Constituting a **National Ebola Preparedness Team** to coordinate readiness activities
- Placing the **National Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC)** on alert for real-time monitoring and coordination
- Enhancing surveillance for viral haemorrhagic fevers and rapid case detection
- Strengthening screening at airports, border points, and other points of entry
- Enhancing laboratory preparedness and diagnostic capacity
- Conducting continuous sensitization and training of healthcare workers
- Intensifying public awareness and risk communication activities
- Coordinating closely with the World Health Organization, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, and other regional and global partners.

Public Advisory

Members of the public are advised to remain calm but vigilant and to:

- Maintain high standards of personal hygiene
- Avoid contact with bodily fluids of sick persons
- Avoid handling sick or dead animals
- Seek immediate medical attention if experiencing symptoms consistent with Ebola Virus Disease, particularly after recent travel to affected areas

The Ministry further advises the public to rely only on official information from the Ministry of Health and recognized international public health agencies, and to refrain from spreading unverified information that may cause unnecessary panic. The Ministry will continue to closely monitor the situation and keep the public informed as further information becomes available.



Dr. Patrick Amoth, CBS
DIRECTOR GENERAL