

PUBLIC ADVISORY No. 06-05-2019

Subject : Measures against Ebola Virus Disease in Kenya

Date : 13 June 2019

The Embassy wishes to inform Filipino nationals to exercise precaution against the Ebola virus disease (EVD), which is spreading from the North Kivu and Ituri provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the border of Uganda.

Ebola is a highly contagious viral disease that is spread through person to person contact or direct contact with the following:

- Blood or body fluids (urine, saliva, sweat, feces, vomit, breast milk, semen) of a person who is sick with or has died from EVD
- Objects (such as clothes, bedding, needles and syringes) contaminated with body fluids from a person who is sick with EVD or a person who has died from EVD
- Blood or body fluids of infected fruit bats or non-human primates such as apes and monkeys

Symptoms of EVD may appear 2 to 21 days after exposure to the virus, but the average is 8 to 10 days. These include fever, severe headache, fatigue, muscle pain, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain and unexplained bleeding or bruising.

While living in or travelling to a region affected by the Ebola virus, there are ways to protect yourself and the spread of the virus. Practice proper hand hygiene, i.e. wash hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

While in an area affected by Ebola virus, you should AVOID:

- Contact with bloody and body fluids
- Items that may have come in contact with an infected person's blood or body fluids
- Funeral or burial rituals that require handling the body of someone who died from EVD
- Contact with bats and nonhuman primates or blood, fluids, and raw meat prepared from these animals (bushmeat) or meat from an unknown source
- Contact with semen from a man who had EVD until he has been medically cleared

After returning from an area affected by Ebola virus, monitor your health for 21 days and seek medical care immediately if you develop symptoms of EVD.

Separate yourself from others and seek medical care immediately.

- **Before you go to the doctor's office, urgent care center or emergency room, call ahead and tell the doctor about your recent travel and your symptoms.** Advance notice will help the doctor care for you and protect other people who may be in the office or hospital.
- **If you are in Kenya for work and become ill, contact your employer or sponsoring organization.**
- **Do not travel until cleared by health officials.**

The Ministry of Health of Kenya has announced the attached Press Release.

The Ministry of Health is located at Afya House, Cathedral Road, 30016 – 00100 Nairobi, Kenya.

Keep yourself up to date with the latest news on EVD:

Ministry of Health of Kenya

Facebook	:	The Ministry of Health	@MinstryofHealthKE
Twitter	:	@MOH_Kenya	
Website	:	www.health.go.ke	

World Health Organization (WHO) Kenya

Twitter	:	@WHOKenya
Website	:	https://www.afro.who.int/countries/kenya

If you suspect that someone may be infected with EVD, immediately contact the Ministry of Health – Disease Surveillance and Response Unit at 0800 721 316, 0729 491414 or 0732 353535.



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The Ministry of Health

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The Ministry of Health is committed to ensure relevant surveillance measures are in place to safeguard the health of all Kenyans. Following a confirmed case of Ebola in Uganda members of the public are advised to remain vigilant & report any suspected cases to the nearest health facility

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
PRESS RELEASE ON THE STATUS OF EBOLA PREVENTION AND RESPONSE MEASURES IN THE COUNTRY

The attention of the Ministry of Health has been drawn to a confirmed Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in Kasese District, western Uganda. This follows isolation of the virus from a 5 year old boy who is reported to have traveled from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with his mother and arrived in Uganda on 10th June 2019. The Ministry continuously monitor the evolution of the prolonged Ebola outbreak in DRC which began in August 2018, with a view of strengthening the Country's preparedness and response capacity in view of the possible spread of the disease.

Ebola is a zoonotic virus disease that is transmitted from animal to humans. The disease spreads through transmission via direct contact with the blood, secretions, organs and other bodily fluid of infected people and through contaminated surfaces and materials. Patients present with fever, chills, headaches and later a person may develop bleeding through all body orifices.

The Ministry of Health has undertaken the following preparedness measures:

- **An alert to all health workers and the general public:** The purpose of the alert was to inform health staff of the outbreak and request them to enhance surveillance measures.
- **National Ebola Preparedness and Response Contingency Plan:** The Ministry of Health and other health actors have developed an Ebola Contingency Plan to guide the implementation of Ebola prevention and response activities in the country.

Screening of incoming passengers and travelers: Incoming travelers from DRC, Uganda and other countries are undergoing screening using automated thermo-scanners and handheld thermo-guns at the major airports and other points including Wilson Airport even though it is mainly for domestic flights.

Facilities for Isolation of suspected cases, Case Management, and Infection Prevention and Control: A fully equipped Ebola Treatment Unit exists at the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) for isolation and management of suspected or confirmed cases. There are also temporary isolation rooms at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JIA) where suspected cases are retained and assessed while awaiting results and possible transfer to isolation facilities.

Positioning of Personal Protective Equipments (PPE): Ministry has prepositioned Personal Protective Equipments (PPE) and other supplies (pharmaceuticals, non-pharmaceutical, hand hygiene supplies and examination equipment) in all the points of entry. Additional buffer stocks of PPE are stored at the national level for distribution to points of entry as should the need arise.

Ministry remains committed to ensuring that relevant surveillance measures are in place to safeguard the health of all Kenyans.

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- **National Ebola Preparedness and Response Contingency Plan:** The Ministry of Health and other health actors have developed an Ebola Contingency Plan to guide the implementation of Ebola prevention and response activities in the event of an outbreak.
- **Coordination of preparedness and response:** The Ministry has a multiagency Ebola preparedness and Response Committee coordinating preparedness and response measures in the event of an outbreak.
- **Ebola Rapid Response Teams:** The Ministry of Health has established Ebola Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) comprising of medical specialists in disease control and laboratory scientists who are trained in investigation and testing for Ebola Virus Disease. In addition to the existence of RRTs, Kenya has a pool of Ebola experts who responded to the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreaks in West Africa.

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The Ministry remains committed to ensuring that relevant surveillance measures are in place to safeguard the health of all Kenyans.

We appeal to members of the public to remain vigilant and report any suspected cases of persons presenting with the above symptoms and with a history of recent travel to the affected countries, to the nearest health facility or the Ministry of Health's Emergency Operations Centre through the following hotlines: **0732353535 and 0729471414.**

MINISTRY OF HEALTH-KENYA

12th JUNE 2019