

## **PUBLIC ADVISORY No. 06-04-2019**

**Subject : Measures against Ebola Virus Disease in Uganda**

**Date : 13 June 2019**

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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 Uganda for work and become ill, contact your employer or sponsoring organization.**
- **Do not travel until cleared by health officials.**

The Ministry of Health of Uganda has been conducting information campaigns. Attached are their Press Releases and infographics.

The Ministry of Health is located at Plot 6, Loudrel Road, Kampala, Uganda

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

Ministry of Health of Uganda

Facebook : Ministry of Health - Uganda  
Twitter : @MinofHealthUG  
Website : health.go.ug

World Health Organization (WHO) Uganda

Facebook : World Health Organization Uganda  
Twitter : @WHOUganda

**If you suspect that someone may be infected with EVD, immediately contact the Ministry of Health toll free at 0800 100066 or 0800 203 033 or send a free SMS to Ureport on 8500.**



# Ministry of Health- Uganda

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## Ministry of Health- Uganda

**PRESS RELEASE:**

- ▲ Grandmother of the deceased index case passed on yesterday & will be accorded safe burial
- ▼ 5 relatives of the deceased have been repatriated back to DRC- mother, father, 3 y/o sibling, 6 month old baby & the maid
- ▲ As of now, NO confirmed case of Ebola in Uganda

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RESPONSIBILITY ON  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

**UPDATE OF EBOLA OUTBREAK IN KASESE DISTRICT**

**14 - 13 June 2019:** The Ministry of Health would like to update the public that Uganda registered three (3) confirmed cases of Ebola. Two of these have since passed (deceased) being the 50-year-old grandmother of the deceased index (Ebola) case who is from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and tested positive but died last evening at 4:00pm. She will be accorded a safe burial at a public cemetery in Kasese District.

From the Ministry of Health, World Health Organisation (WHO) Uganda and Central Emergency Operations Centre (CEOC) led by Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng travelled to Kasese, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and joined the District Task Force chaired by the Resident Commissioner of Kasese District. In this meeting, a situation report was discussed and the following key messages were issued:

- 1. The situation is under control and the risk of further spread is low.
- 2. Surveillance teams will support burial arrangements of the late Queen Mother and ensure minimal risk of spread of infection.
- 3. All Kasese residents, including committee members, and all the residents of the Kasese District should remain vigilant and report any suspected cases to the nearest health centre.
- 4. All Kasese residents, including committee members, and all the residents of the Kasese District should remain vigilant and report any suspected cases to the nearest health centre.

At 3:00PM, teams from Ministry of Health DRC led by Dr. Tulupende Gaston joined the District Task Force at the invitation of the Ugandan Minister of Health. They came into Uganda at the invitation of the Ugandan Minister of Health.

The two patients that for repatriation include one confirmed case, brother of the deceased index case and four suspected cases who are brother of the deceased index case, her 8-month-old child, her husband and brother of the deceased index case who is a spouse.

Today, 13 June 2019 at 10:00am, the DRC team successfully repatriated the people. These are: brother of the deceased index case, the 3-year-old confirmed Ebola case, her 8-month-old baby and the maid. The father of the deceased index case who is Ugandan also agreed to be repatriated with his family. All the six people who entered Uganda from DRC have now been repatriated.

As of now, there is no confirmed case of Ebola in Uganda. However, 5 suspected cases not related to the deceased index case remain in isolation at Bwera Francis Ebola Treatment Unit. Their blood samples have been sent to Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) and results are pending.

Ebola remains in DRC - response made to follow up the 27 contacts of the deceased index case and the three suspected cases.

The teams from the Ministry of Health, DRC also donated a total of 400 doses of 'Ebola-ZMAPP' vaccine to support Uganda embark on ring vaccination of the contacts of the confirmed cases and non-confirmed family health and other workers. The vaccination will start on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Furthermore, WHO Uganda and WHO Geneva have issued travel advice to all those at risk of the disease to visit on the destination country.

The Ugandan team led by the Director of Health also held a meeting with the authorities of the Kingdom of Rwanda (Rwanda) on this date to brief the late Queen Mother of the King of Rwanda and agreed on the following:

1. Ministry of Health will provide guidelines for use by the Kingdom, Rwanda Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019 taking into consideration the current Ebola outbreak and the importance of infection control and preparedness to minimize spread of Ebola.
2. All Kingdom residents, including committee members, and all the residents of the Kasese District should remain vigilant and report any suspected cases to the nearest health centre.

Surveillance teams will support burial arrangements of the late Queen Mother and ensure minimal risk of spread of infection.

Ministry of Health would like to re-assure the international travellers that Uganda is safe and all our national parks and tourist sites remain open and accessible to the public.

We appeal to the public and multitudes individuals to abstain from spreading false rumors about the Ebola outbreak generally and on social media. The outbreak is REAL and we urge all residents of Uganda to remain vigilant and report any suspected cases to the nearest health centre.

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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

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IN ANY CORRESPONDENCE ON  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### UPDATE OF EBOLA OUTBREAK IN KASESE DISTRICT

**Kampala – 13 June 2019-** The Ministry of Health would like to update the public that Uganda has so far registered three (3) confirmed cases of Ebola. Two of these have since passed on. The most recent being the 50-year-old grandmother of the deceased index Ebola case who travelled from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and tested positive for Ebola but died last evening at 4:00pm. She will be accorded a safe burial at a public cemetery today in Kasese District.

Teams from the Ministry of Health, World Health Organization (WHO) Uganda and Center for Disease Control (CDC) led by Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng travelled to Bwera yesterday, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and joined the District Task Force chaired by the Resident District Commissioner of Kasese District. In this meeting, a situation report was discussed and further strategies laid down on how to improve screening at border points of entry including the non-official entry points. Financial support to the district was also discussed and the meeting resolved that the district should immediately prepare a work plan including a budget and submit to the Ministry of Health for urgent consideration.

Several partners who attended the meeting reaffirmed their commitment to support the district.

At about 3:00PM, teams from Ministry of Health DRC led by Dr. Tshapenda Gaston joined the meeting. They came into Uganda at the invitation of the Ugandan Minister of Health. The purpose of their invitation was to harmonize ideas on how to further strengthen screening at the border points, prompt sharing of information and conclude the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with DRC that also includes cross border movements of patients. It was resolved that all the unofficial points of entry would be manned on both Ugandan and DRC sides and information on any unusual event shared immediately. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding will be undertaken within two weeks.

During the meeting, the teams from DRC requested for the possibility of Uganda accepting the repatriation of the Congolese who were confirmed Ebola cases and were being managed at the Bwera ETU. The DRC team proposed to repatriate six (6) Ebola patients back to DRC to enable them access medicines for therapeutic treatment which are available in the DRC as well as receive family support and comfort since they had 6 other relatives who had remained behind in DRC and 5 of whom had also been confirmed positive for Ebola.

The repatriation is on condition that the patients and their relatives give informed consent and willingly accept to go to the DRC while those who are not willing to consent will be retained and managed in Uganda.

The five patients due for repatriation include; one confirmed case; brother of the deceased index case and four suspected cases who are; mother of the deceased index case, her 6-month old baby, their maid and father of the deceased index case who is a Ugandan.

Today, 13 June 2019 at 10:00am, the DRC team successfully repatriated five people. These are; mother of the deceased index case, the 3-year-old confirmed Ebola case, her 6-month old baby and the maid. The father of the deceased index case who is Ugandan also agreed to be repatriated with his family. All the six people who entered Uganda from DRC have now been accounted for.

As of now, there is no confirmed case of Ebola in Uganda. However, 3 suspected cases not related to the deceased index case remain in isolation at Bwera Hospital Ebola Treatment Unit. Their blood samples have been sent to Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) and results are pending.

Uganda remains in Ebola response mode to follow up the 27 contacts of the deceased index case and the three suspected cases.

The teams from the Ministry of Health, DRC also donated a total of 400 doses of 'Ebola-rVSV' vaccines to support Uganda embark on ring vaccination of the contacts to the confirmed cases and non-vaccinated frontline health and other workers. The vaccination will start on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Furthermore, WHO Uganda and WHO Geneva have already flown in 4,000 more doses of the vaccine to scale up the vaccination activity.

The Ugandan team led by the Minister of Health also held a meeting with the leadership of the Kingdom of Rwenzururu (Obusinga bwa Rwenzururu) as they plan to bury the late Queen Mother of the King of Rwenzururu and agreed on the following:

1. Ministry of Health will provide guidelines for use by the Kingdom, tomorrow Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019 taking into consideration the current Ebola outbreak and the importance of infection control and prevention to minimize spread of Ebola
2. All Kingdom executives, Organizing committee members, and all the residents of the Palace will undergo sensitization on Ebola prior to the burial of the late Queen Mother to equip them with information and encourage to disseminate to the entire Kingdom



3. Surveillance teams will support burial arrangements of the late Queen Mother and processes to ensure minimal risk of spread of infection

Ministry of Health would like to re-assure the International travelers that Uganda is safe and all our national parks and tourist sites remain open and accessible to the public.

We appeal to the public and malicious individuals to desist from spreading false rumors about the Ebola outbreak generally and on social media. The outbreak is REAL and we urge all residents of Uganda to remain vigilant and report any suspected cases to the nearest health facility or call our toll-free number **0800-203-033 or 0800-100-066**

The Ministry of Health appreciates all its partners for their unwavering support in the preparedness phase and their commitment in the now response phase.



**Hon. Dr. Aceng Jane Ruth**  
**Minister of Health**

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*For further information, contact Dr. Henry G. Mwebesa– Director General Health Services on +256772-221-291  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **UPDATE OF EBOLA OUTBREAK IN KASESE DISTRICT**

**Kampala – 12 June 2019-** The Ministry of Health would like to update the public that the 5 year old boy who traveled from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with his mother on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and tested positive for Ebola died this morning.

There are two (2) new confirmed cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Kasese District, Uganda. The confirmed cases include; the 50 year old grandmother and a 3 year old brother to the deceased.

Blood samples were drawn and sent for testing at the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) and both samples tested positive for Ebola.

The confirmed cases presented with the following symptoms; vomiting blood, bloody diarrhea, muscle pain, headache, fatigue and abdominal pain. The confirmed cases are currently under isolation at Bwera Hospital Ebola Treatment Unit for further management.

Eight contacts have been line listed and are currently being followed up.

In order to contain the Ebola outbreak, Government of Uganda working with Partners is undertaking the following interventions;

- The Minister of Health, Director General Health Services, Country representative, WHO-Uganda have arrived in Kasese District to assess and evaluate the situation on ground.
  - Rapid Response Teams are on ground to assess the situation and support the district teams to continue with the response activities such as; contact tracing, case management including safe and dignified burial, surveillance, risk communication and psychosocial support.
  - The Ministry of Health and WHO will undertake ring vaccination of contacts to the case and other non-vaccinated frontline health and other workers beginning Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019.
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- The Ministry would like to assure the public that, the vaccine is very safe and effective and contacts or frontline health and other workers identified for vaccination should willingly take the vaccine for their own and family protection.
- The Government of Uganda has developed and finalized a 72 hour costed comprehensive response plan

**Appeal to the public;**

- Always wash your hands with soap and clean water
- Government of Uganda appeals to communities in all DRC-Uganda border districts to suspend market days, mass gatherings such as in places of worship, burials, weddings
- Report any suspected cases with signs and symptoms such as; unexplained bleeding from any body openings, vomiting blood, bloody diarrhea, muscle pain, headache, fatigue, abdominal pain and sudden unexplained death to the nearest health facility
- Suspend social norms like shaking hands and hugging
- Avoid touching a patient suspected to have Ebola

The Ministry of Health re-echoes its call on the general public to cooperate with the Immigration, Health and Security officials to ensure effective screening at all entry points to prevent the spread of Ebola to other parts of the country.

The Ministry would like to re-assure Ugandans and all other residents that with experience and expertise available in the country and the over ten months of preparedness, the disease will be contained.

We appeal to the public to remain calm and vigilant and report any suspected cases with the above mentioned symptoms to the nearest health facility or call our toll-free number 0800-203-033 or 0800-100-066

The Ministry of Health appreciates all partners for their unwavering support in preventing the spread of Ebola to other parts of Uganda.

The Ministry of Health will continue to update the public on the current Ebola Outbreak.



Dr. Charles Olaro

For: Director General Health Services

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REPUBLIC OF UGANDA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

# EBOLA

## TRANSMISSION

Ebola is a severe and often deadly disease

## THE FOLLOWING ARE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF EBOLA

### How is Ebola spread?

Through direct contact with the following:

 Soiled clothing of an infected person	 Unsterilized equipment used by an infected person	 Blood and secretions from sores from an infected person	 Sudden onset of fever	 Headache	 Intense body weakness
 Urine from an infected person	 Saliva from an infected person	 Worst from an infected person	 Muscle pain	 Sore throat	 Vomiting
 Sweat from an infected person	 Feces from an infected person	 Handling wildlife whether alive or dead	 Diarrhea	 Skin rash	 Bleeding from body openings

## PREVENTION

Ebola is severe and often deadly diseases that can be prevented by doing the following:

 Avoid direct contact with body fluids from any person suspected or infected with Ebola.	 If you must handle a patient with Ebola, wear protective materials e.g. gloves & mask.	 Persons who have died of Ebola must be buried immediately by a trained burial team to prevent spread of the disease.	 In case you handle a person suspected to be infected with Ebola, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
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Report all suspected cases to the nearest health facility immediately. For further information send a **FREE SMS** to Ureport on: **8800** or call toll free on: **0800 100066**



Ministry of Health- Uganda

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Ebola is a severe and often deadly disease. However, Ebola is preventable.

Read the fact sheet below on Ebola transmission, signs and symptoms and prevention measures.

! There is NO confirmed case of Ebola in Uganda. #NOEbolaInUganda

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