

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA MINISTRY OF HEALTH

PRESS STATEMENT

PRESS STATEMENT ON CONFIRMED EBOLA OUTBREAK IN MUBENDE DISTRICT

20th September, 2022





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20th **September, 2022 -** The Ministry of Health wishes to notify the nation of a confirmed Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in Mubende District.

On the 15th September 2022, one suspected case-patient of Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) was identified and isolated in Mubende Regional Referral Hospital. The suspected case-patient was a 24-year-old male who lived in Ngabano village of Madudu Sub County in Mubende District. He was a referral from St. Johns Medical Clinic in East Division of Mubende Municipality where he had just been referred.

He presented with high grade fever, convulsions, blood-stained vomitus and diarrhea, loss of appetite and pain on swallowing. He also presented with chest pain, dry cough, and bleeding in the eyes.

While in the isolation unit at Mubende RRH, he developed yellowing of eyes, tea colored urine and complained of abdominal pain on the 17th September 2022. The clinical team took a sample from the patient having suspected a VHF. The sample was received at the VHF laboratory at Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) on the 18th September 2022, and results released on the 19th September 2022 confirmed Ebola (Sudan strain) infection.

Early in the morning of 19th September 2022, the confirmed index case passed on, and the body is still currently kept in the Mubende RRH mortuary, separated from the other bodies awaiting safe and dignified burial.

More information is still being gathered concerning the possible source of infection and contacts for this confirmed case.





This is the second Ebola-Sudan strain in Uganda. The first case was reported in Luwero District in 2012. This was diagnosed and ended on the index case. There was no secondary transmission reported. The incubation for Ebola Sudan period is 2-21 days. Like all other Ebola strains, this is a serious disease with significant morbidity and mortality.

Unexplained deaths

On suspicion of VHF, the District Rapid Response team, initiated the investigations in the community as there were unconfirmed deaths in different communities. This was as a result of community reports of strange illness and sudden deaths in the villages of Madudu and Kiruma sub-counties.

The district team verified the deaths as follows; A total of six (6) deaths had occurred in Kiruma and Madudu Sub-counties; Three (3) adults and three (3) children between 1st and 15th September 2022.

The Ministry of Health has instituted preliminary containment measures to control the outbreak in the district and the surrounding districts. The Ministry calls upon the population across the country, and Mubende sub-region to remain calm but remain vigilant to report any suspected case to the nearest health facility for assessment.

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.

CONCLUSION 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 of anyone with 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.





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.

The Ministry of Health doesn't not recommend any travel restrictions in and out of the country, neither any travel restrictions with the affected areas.

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

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

Dr. Diana Atwine

PERMANENT SECRETARY