



Ministry of Health

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE PREPAREDNESS IN UGANDA

19th October 2018 (12:00 HRS) – UPDATE No 37

a) SITUATION UPDATE FROM DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO FOR 18TH OCTOBER 2018, WITH DATA UP TO 17TH OCTOBER 2018

- Cumulative cases: 223
- Confirmed cases : 188
- Probable : 35
- Total deaths : 144
- Suspect Cases under investigation : 46
- Areas affected : Two provinces
 - North Kivu - Mabalako; Butembo; Ocha; Musienene; Beni and Bingo
 - Ituri- Mambasa, Mandina, Tchomia
- Health and front line workers vaccinated
- Security concerns limiting contact tracing.

b) EVD SITUATIONAL UPDATE IN UGANDA

- **There is NO confirmed EVD case in Uganda**
- Active case search continues in all communities, health facilities and on formal and informal border crossing in all district especially in the high risk ones.
- Alert cases continue to be picked, isolated, treated and blood samples picked for testing by the Uganda Virus Research Institute. The alerts are highlighted in the specific district reports below under Surveillance section.



c) PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD AND NATIONAL (PROGRESS AND GAPS)

COORDINATION

- The meeting of the Emergency Committee convened by the WHO Director-General under the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) regarding the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo took place on Wednesday, 17 October 2018. The committee recommended that a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) should not be declared at this time. However, the Committee remains deeply concerned by the outbreak and emphasized that response activities need to be intensified and ongoing vigilance is critical. The Committee also noted the very complex security situation in the affected areas.
- The Independent Oversight & Advisory Committee for WHO Health Emergencies Program concluded a visit to the high-risk districts in which they assessed the status of WHO's and partner support to Ebola preparedness. The District Ebola Preparedness Taskforces and the district leaderships presented updates on EVD readiness and preparedness, highlighting achievements, gaps and future plans. Various partners attended the meetings and their contributions were highly appreciated. The IOAC delegates visited various ETUs, screening points, the Ebola treatment Centre at Kabarole Regional Referral Hospital and JMEDICC Ebola treatment facility.

SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES

Hoima and Kikuube Districts

- No EVD alert or suspected case reported in both Hoima and Kikuube districts on Thursday 18th October 2018 as at 18:00 hours.
- Point of Entry (POE) EVD screening continues to take place at Sebagoro, Nsonga and Kaiso ports with a total of 103 new arrivals screened as at 18:00 hours Thursday 18th October 2018.

Bundibugyo District



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- WHO and Uganda Red Cross Society team investigated one 1 alert case from Butoogho of a 40 year old female who came from Tingba (DRC) with fever, headache, rash, chest pain and epistaxis. She reported to have been on several medications without improvement and had come to Uganda to seek medical care.
- Team investigated the alert, called for an ambulance and admitted the patient in the Bundibugyo ETU. Blood sample for EVD testing has been taken off and dispatched to UVRI. Team organizing for safe burial on 19th October 2018.
- Two (2) new alerts were reported on 18th October 2018. One alert case is from Butoogho community in Bundibugyo and has been isolated at the ETU in Bundibugyo Hospital. The total number of suspect cases currently isolated in the ETU in Bundibugyo is two (2) including the alert admitted on the 17/10/2018.

Kabarole District

- One alert case was reported yesterday and a blood sample collected and sent to UVRI. This is a 35 year old female from Kida. However, there is no history of travel to DRC or contact with a confirmed case.

Bunyangabu District

- One alert case was reported in Bunyangabu district. This was a sudden death of a pregnant mother. She had no history of travel to DRC and no history of contact with a case. A sample was collected and sent to UVRI for analysis.

Ntoroko District

- One of the abandoned border crossing points namely Kayanja II resumed work today after several engagement with the Village Health Teams (VHTs) of the community and the security forces. The volunteers were reminded about the EVD Community Case Definition and urged promptly report any alert they identify.

CASE MANAGEMENT AND IPC

- Training of Trainers on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) for members of the District IPC



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committee in the 5 districts in the Rwenzori sub-region is ongoing in Kabarole and is scheduled to end today 19th October 2018.

Bundibugyo District

- There are two (2) alert cases admitted in the ETU at Bundibugyo a male and female. They are both on supportive treatment and their blood samples have been sent to UVRI for testing. However, delayed payment of facilitation allowance for staff working in the ETU is affecting morale and operations at the facility with only the laboratory team and 1 clinician available to attend to patients.

Ntoroko District

- Screening at Kayanja border crossing point II resumed after several weeks of withdrawal by the volunteers with emphasis on personal protection and prompt identification of alert cases. Work continues at the ETU in Rwebisengo and modification of the layout of the ETU will be done based on the feedback from the WHO Ebola Incident Manager.

VACCINATION

- The vaccination protocol for compassionate use and related documents have been submitted to Uganda National Council of Science and Technology (UNCST) for review and decision. Official communication from UNCST will be sent to the Principal Investigator next week.

RISK COMMUNICATION/SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

- MoH and UNICEF reviewed the district risk communication budgets for 22 districts and funds are expected in the districts next week.
- EVD radio messages and spots continue to be broadcast on FM station in all districts supported by UNICEF.
- All DHT are distributing IEC materials with support from WHO, URCS and UNICEF
- VHTs and URCS volunteers continue to implement community engagement activities in the various districts.



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LOGISTICS

- WHO recruited two logisticians to specifically support EVD preparedness activities. One is based in the field, and the other in Fort Portal from where they will coordinate field logistical activities.
- Procurement of Infection Prevention and Control supplies for the 5 high risk districts is ongoing and they are expected next week.
- Designated stores for EVD preparedness supplies have been set up in the 5 high risk districts.

-End-

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