



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

PRESS STATEMENT:
MINISTRY OF HEALTH UPDATE ON EBOLA
Lusaka - 29 May 2026

The Ministry of Health wishes to update the country on the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Sub-region, and on Zambia's preparedness to successfully prevent, stop, and/or hinder the spread and/or transmission of the Ebola virus within the boundaries of our country.

Background:

On 15th May, 2026, the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared an outbreak of Ebola in the **Ituri region** of that country. Since that declaration of the outbreak, the Ebola virus and/or disease has spread very rapidly to **13 zones** of that country, causing two hundred and thirty-eight (238) deaths among one thousand and seventy-seven (1,077) suspected cases. Further, the disease has also crossed borders into Uganda, where seven (7) cases have been confirmed and one fatality has been recorded.

Position of the World Health Organization: On the 17th May, 2026, the World Health Organization declared the current outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda as a Public Health Emergency of International concern. Therefore, the threat of an Ebola outbreak is real to any country, given the dynamics of trade and general travel. Zambia could even be at a higher risk of imported Ebola because of the cross-border activities that are conducted between the two countries.

Spread of Ebola:

Country men and women, you may wish to note that Ebola spreads from person to person through direct contact with infected body fluids (blood, saliva, sweat, vomitus, feces, semen, etc.) and/or through contaminated objects such as needles and beddings.

The symptoms and signs of Ebola: It is important for all of us to know the symptoms and signs of Ebola, so that we can seek prompt health services at the nearest health center. The symptoms and signs include the following:

1. High fever;
2. Severe headache;
3. Intense fatigue;
4. Muscle pain;
5. Sore throat;
6. Severe vomiting;
7. Diarrhea;
8. Stomach pain;
9. Rash; and
10. In severe cases, internal and external bleeding (for example, from the eyes or gums).

Current Status of Ebola in Zambia.

THERE IS NO OUTBREAK OF EBOLA IN ZAMBIA. Zambia has only recorded two **SUSPECTED** cases of Ebola, both of which were **NEGATIVE** for Ebola after laboratory testing. This also demonstrates and/or speaks to the vigilance of our health system not to miss any case of Ebola..

Activities being Implemented to Stop the Spread of Ebola into Zambia

Coordination: The Government of Zambia is using the whole of Government and Society Approach to stop the entry of Ebola into Zambia, under the Stewardship of the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit.

Screening for Ebola and/or Surveillance:

Zambia has developed screening tools and/or protocols, which are already being used to screen for Ebola at entry points into Zambia and on people within the country who have Ebola-like symptoms.

Isolation Centers: Zambia has identified and assessed facilities to house individuals suspected of having Ebola, whilst they are being investigated for Ebola.

Laboratory Diagnosis: The country has adequate capacity to definitively identify and/or diagnose Ebola through mobile laboratories, the University of Zambia Veterinary Laboratory, and the University Teaching Hospital.

Medical Counter Measures: The Zambian Government is and will continue working with development partners such as the World Health Organization, the U.S Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, the African CDC, and the Africa

Development Bank to increase the availability of appropriate supportive medical counter measures, including diagnostics, supportive treatments, and personal protective equipment. You may wish to note that patients with Ebola do recover with appropriate supportive treatments, especially if started early.

Information, Education, and Information for Behavior Change: Zambia is finalizing information packages in English and local languages to be used at interpersonal , community, and mass media levels to inform and educate the public about Ebola. The focus is on behavior change, including improving health seeking behaviors.

Contact Numbers for Additional Information: The Zambian Government will proactively continue to update the public on the status of Ebola activities in the sub-region region, including our own country. However, if members of the public have an urgent question and/or clarification, they can reach out to the following contacts and/or search on the following sites:

- Zambia Ministry of Health (MoH) — PoE International Health Regulations Focal point /Emergency /Surveillance contact: +260 (961932225);
- Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) — National PoE and Cross Border Collaboration: +260 (966526116);
- Hotline Toll-free 7020, monitor ZNPHI announcements and follow posted guidance; and
- Website: <https://www.moh.gov.zm/> and <https://ww2.znphi.co.zm/>



George Sinyangwe
Permanent Secretary - Donor Coordination
Ministry of Health