



Ebola disease caused by Bundibugyo virus, Democratic Republic of the Congo & Uganda

Update 2

Date of issue 26/05/2026

Summary

On 15 May 2026, an outbreak of severe illness with high mortality in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) was confirmed as Ebola disease caused by Bundibugyo virus. Limited cross-border spread to Uganda was reported.

On 16 May 2026, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

As of 25 May 2026, the WHO has reported

- 101 confirmed cases including 10 confirmed deaths and over 900 suspected cases in DRC¹
- seven confirmed cases including one confirmed death in Uganda.¹

Health authorities in both the DRC and Uganda are implementing public health measures, supported by the WHO.

The Australian Centre for Disease Control (Australian CDC) is continuing to work closely with WHO and other government agencies to monitor the situation.

WHO assesses the risk of the outbreak to be very high for DRC, high for Uganda, high at the regional level, and low at the global level.²

The risk to Australia remains low.

CDC situation reassessment plan

- The risk to human health in Australia from Bundibugyo virus disease (BVD) remains low.
- The Australian CDC will continue to monitor the situation internationally.
- The risk will be reassessed for evidence of escalating outbreak size, changes to characteristics or uncertainty, spread to new areas, international travellers, and/or major travel networks.

Relevance to Australia

- The current risk to human health in Australia from BVD remains low, noting:
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- The outbreak remains geographically concentrated in eastern DRC but is occurring in a complex epidemiological and humanitarian context.
 - Transmission requires direct contact with infected body fluids, reducing likelihood of casual importation.
 - WHO continues to advise that no country should close its borders or place any restrictions on travel and trade.
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Current situation

Case detection and reporting

- For further information on earlier cases and public health response in the DRC and Uganda, please refer to the [previous situation report](#).³
- On 15 May 2026, an outbreak of severe illness with high mortality in the DRC was confirmed as Ebola disease caused by Bundibugyo virus. Limited cross-border spread to Uganda was reported.⁴
- On 16 May, WHO declared the outbreak a PHEIC.⁴
- As of 25 May 2026, 101 confirmed cases including 10 confirmed deaths and more than 900 suspected cases have been reported so far in DRC, and seven confirmed cases including one confirmed death have been reported in Uganda.¹
- Case numbers are expected to change and are indicative only. Current evidence suggests there remains undetected transmission and ongoing spread in the DRC.

Public health response

- The Australian CDC continues to work closely with the WHO and Australian government agencies to monitor the situation. Australia has strong border health measures in place to screen for people who may be symptomatic with very serious communicable diseases like Ebola. Incoming travellers who have signs or symptoms of Ebola disease are assessed and if required will be referred for appropriate medical care and management.
- Health authorities in both DRC and Uganda are implementing public health measures, including coordination through emergency meetings and deployment of rapid response teams, epidemiological surveillance, diagnostic services, infection prevention and control measures, case and contact management, risk communication, and community engagement.
- The WHO is supporting the national authorities in the DRC and Uganda to strengthen their public health response, including deployment of personnel, knowledge, and supplies for case and contact management, epidemiological surveillance, point of entry screening, and communications.
- The WHO advises against imposing travel or trade restrictions, noting these may have unintended impacts on response efforts and population movement.
- There are no currently available licensed vaccines or specific therapeutics for BVD, though research and development are ongoing with support from the WHO.

Epidemiology

- In Australia, there have been no recorded human cases of Ebola disease, to date.

Public health guidelines and resources

- [Ebola virus disease – CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units | Australian Centre for Disease Control](#)
 - [Ebola disease | Australian Centre for Disease Control](#)
 - [Guidance for managing departing and returning aid workers | Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing](#)
 - [Ebola information for frontline health professionals | Australian Centre for Disease Control](#)
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References

1. World Health Organization (25 May 2026). Ebola disease caused by Bundibugyo virus. [Tweet], X (Twitter). Accessed 26-05-2026: <https://x.com/DrTedros/status/2058926121102594243?s=20>
2. World Health Organization (22 May 2026). First meeting of the IHR Emergency Committee regarding the epidemic of Ebola Bundibugyo virus disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda 2026 – Temporary recommendations. Accessed 25-05-2026: <https://www.who.int/news/item/22-05-2026-first-meeting-of-the-ihf-emergency-committee-regarding-the-epidemic-of-ebola-bundibugyo-virus-disease-in-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-and-uganda-2026-temporary-recommendations>
3. Australian Centre for Disease Control (18 May 2026) Ebola virus disease caused by Bundibugyo virus, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda – Situation report 1. Accessed 25-05-2026: <https://www.cdc.gov.au/resources/publications/ebola-virus-disease-caused-bundibugyo-virus-democratic-republic-congo-and-uganda-situation-report-1>
4. World Health Organization (21 May 2026). Disease Outbreak News. Ebola disease caused by Bundibugyo virus, Democratic Republic of the Congo (The) & Uganda. Accessed 25-05-2026: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2026-DON603>