



The Republic of Uganda

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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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.

- 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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