



## **MINISTRY OF HEALTH PRESS STATEMENT**

*For Immediate Release*

### **MPOX RESPONSE AND ENHANCED MARBURG VIRUS DISEASE PREPAREDNESS**

Nairobi, [31<sup>st</sup> October 2024] – The National Taskforce for Response to Mpox and Preparedness to Marburg Virus Disease held a critical meeting today to review progress, enhance coordination efforts, and strengthen Kenya’s preparedness against Mpox and the emerging threat of Marburg Virus Disease (MVD), following recent outbreaks in the region. The meeting was attended by key stakeholders from across government, representatives from the Council of Governors, County Governments, health partners, officials from the Ministry of Health and other relevant Ministries, State Departments and Agencies.

During the meeting, the taskforce reaffirmed its commitment to a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, underscoring the importance of a united response to safeguard public health. Convened under the mandate of the Ministry of Health, this taskforce has been operational since September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and has been instrumental in coordinating an efficient and robust response to the ongoing Mpox outbreak in Kenya.

#### **About the Taskforce**

The National Taskforce for Mpox and Marburg Virus Disease Preparedness was established by the Ministry of Health to provide strategic direction and coordination in addressing Mpox and Marburg Virus Disease threats. The Taskforce brings together representatives from various government Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Council of Governors, and health sector partners to implement a coordinated and integrated response framework.

#### **Key Outcomes and Priorities**

1. Marburg Virus Disease Preparedness: Although Kenya has not reported any cases of Marburg Virus Disease, the taskforce is intensifying surveillance and response plans due to frequent travel and trade with Rwanda, where an outbreak was recently reported. This includes establishing Marburg Virus Disease treatment units and integrated health worker training programs to ensure Kenya is ready to respond swiftly and effectively should any cases arise.

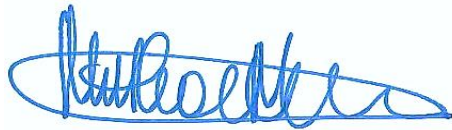
2. Integrated Training and Capacity Building: The Ministry of Health has developed an integrated training plan aimed at building capacity for healthcare workers to manage both Mpox and Marburg Virus Disease. This proactive approach ensures healthcare workers across the country are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to respond to both infections.

3. Unified Response Mechanism: Emphasizing the taskforce's central role in outbreak management, the Ministry of Health reaffirmed that the National Taskforce is the national coordination framework mandated to lead the Mpox response and prepare for potential Marburg Virus Disease cases. The Ministry also stressed that the Incident Management System will oversee all operational aspects of the response, providing cohesive and strategic leadership.

4. Call to Action for Enhanced Collaboration: The taskforce called on all Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Counties, and partners to further intensify their contributions toward eradicating Mpox in Kenya and to ensure nationwide readiness for any Marburg Virus Disease cases.

### **Commitment to Health Security**

The Ministry of Health remains committed to Kenya's constitutional goal of achieving the highest attainable standard of health for all. This taskforce's efforts signify a proactive stance in strengthening Kenya's disease prevention, preparedness, and response framework. Through ongoing collaboration, the Taskforce aims to eliminate the Mpox outbreak and establish robust preparedness mechanisms for potential future threats, including Marburg Virus Disease.



**MARY MUTHONI MURIUKI, CBS**  
**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**