



Insight

Kenya is strengthening surveillance, border screening, and emergency response systems to enhance Ebola preparedness.

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“We must remain vigilant and fully prepared to prevent cross-border transmission and protect public health.” — CS Health Hon. Aden Duale

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MoH Strengthens National Readiness Following Regional Ebola Outbreak

Kenya has heightened Ebola preparedness measures following the regional outbreak of the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), with the Ministry of Health scaling up surveillance, laboratory testing, border screening, emergency response coordination, and public awareness systems to strengthen national readiness and prevent cross-border transmission.

During a high-level engagement chaired by Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale, the Government announced enhanced screening at high-risk points of entry, activation of isolation and holding facilities, round-the-clock operations at national reference laboratories, and a cross-border simulation exercise scheduled in Busia next week to test operational preparedness and rapid response systems.



The Ministry, through the Kenya National Public Health Institute (KNPHI) and the fully activated National Incident Management System, has intensified preparedness interventions across case management, logistics, risk communication, and border health services. Public sensitization campaigns targeting healthcare workers, transport operators, border communities, and other at-risk groups are also ongoing to strengthen prevention and early detection efforts.

CS Duale further called for strengthened support towards emergency financing, laboratory systems, infection prevention and control, county preparedness, emergency logistics, and frontline health worker capacity building, while commending WHO, Africa CDC, US CDC, IOM, Kenya Red Cross, AMREF, UNICEF, and other partners for supporting Kenya's preparedness efforts.





Government Extends Contracts for UHC Staff to June 2026

The Government has extended contracts for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) staff up to 30th June 2026 following approval by the Public Service Commission, Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale has announced.

In a statement issued on Friday, the Cabinet Secretary assured UHC personnel and the public that the contracts remain valid as the Ministry of Health finalizes ongoing transition processes in collaboration with County Governments.

CS Duale confirmed that payroll adjustments are currently being undertaken within the Integrated Personnel and Payroll Database (IPPD) system to reflect the contract extension.

“The oversight that occasioned uncertainty regarding contract continuity and salary processing is regretted,” said the Cabinet Secretary, who also commended UHC staff for their patience and continued service delivery during the period.

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The extension of UHC staff contracts is expected to support continuity of healthcare services as the Government finalizes ongoing transition processes with County Governments.

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“We acknowledge and commend the invaluable contribution of UHC staff in strengthening healthcare service delivery across the country.”

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He further announced that all UHC staff whose contracts have been extended will receive their salary underpayments through the June 2026 payroll.

The Ministry acknowledged the contribution of UHC staff in strengthening healthcare services across the country and reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring a smooth transition of UHC services through continued engagement with relevant stakeholders.

UHC staff were encouraged to continue discharging their duties as the remaining transition processes are finalized.

Key Highlight:

UHC staff contracts have been extended to 30th June 2026, with salary underpayments set to be processed in the June 2026 payroll.



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Kenya has intensified surveillance, laboratory testing, and border screening measures to strengthen national preparedness against the regional Ebola outbreak.

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“We remain on high alert to protect the health and safety of all Kenyans.” —
CS Health Hon. Aden Duale

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Government Intensifies Border Screening and Surveillance Over Regional Ebola Threat

Kenya has not reported any confirmed Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) case as of 21 May 2026 despite heightened regional risk linked to cross-border movement, trade, and transport, Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale has said.

The assurance follows the ongoing outbreak of the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola Virus Disease affecting parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, which has been declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and by Africa CDC as a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security.

Addressing the press, CS Duale disclosed that three individuals with recent travel history from the DRC who presented to health facilities with unrelated illnesses were isolated, assessed, and tested for Ebola, with all results returning negative. Four additional contacts who accompanied them to hospital also tested negative.

The Ministry of Health, through the Kenya National Public Health Institute (KNPHI), has activated a multi-sectoral preparedness framework including the Incident Management System, Public Health Emergency Operations Centres, and rapid response teams placed on standby for immediate deployment.



Enhanced screening has also been intensified at airports and land border crossings, with 42,447 travellers screened so far, including 2,965 screened within the last 24 hours alone.

To strengthen laboratory and clinical preparedness, the Government has designated four national laboratories for Ebola testing, identified 22 high-risk counties, placed 118 rapid response personnel on standby, and sensitized more than 880 healthcare workers on Ebola preparedness and response.

Pictorial | High-level engagement on Ebola preparedness and emergency response measures





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MAY

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