



Kenya strengthens Ebola preparedness following imported case

Cabinet Secretary for Health Hon. Aden Duale has reassured Kenyans that the country is not experiencing an Ebola outbreak. He gave the assurance during a tour of Nairobi Hospital's 133-bed isolation unit, following confirmation of one imported case from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The patient died on 6 October 2026.

Health authorities have identified 57 contacts linked to the case. Ten have been traced and placed under quarantine at the National Police Service Hospital in Nairobi, while efforts to locate the remaining contacts continue.

The Cabinet Secretary reviewed capacity at five designated facilities: Kenyatta National Hospital (eight beds), Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (50), National Police Service Hospital (49), Port Reitz Hospital (four) and Nairobi Hospital (133, including 45 high dependency and intensive care beds). Capacity can be expanded if needed. Nairobi Hospital's isolation unit is separated from the main campus, with designated zones to protect other patients.



Preparedness is also being strengthened at points of entry. Temporary isolation centres have been identified at Malaba and Kocholia, while Alupe is being renovated. Traveller screening has been intensified, particularly for passengers arriving from countries in the region. Travellers are urged to complete health declaration forms truthfully to support surveillance and contact tracing.

The Ministry urges the public to remain vigilant without panic. Anyone experiencing symptoms or concerned about possible exposure should seek care promptly at a recognised health facility. For guidance, call **719** or follow official Ministry of Health platforms for updates. The Cabinet Secretary was accompanied by Principal Secretary Ms. Mary Muthoni, Director-General for Health Dr. Patrick Amoth, Nairobi Hospital CEO Dr. Felix Osano and senior Ministry officials.



Kenya Steps Up Ebola Preparedness

Kenya is expanding its Ebola preparedness following the death of a patient with an imported case of the disease, Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale has said. Speaking on NTV's Fixing the Nation, Mr Duale reassured the public that the case had not led to an outbreak in the country.

More than 652,000 travellers have been screened, while 267 samples have been tested through the national laboratory network. The Ministry has trained 4,971 healthcare providers in Ebola prevention and case management. Kenya currently has 15 isolation and treatment units and plans to increase the number to 22, with priority given to high-risk counties.



Hon Duale said national monitoring of intensive care beds and daily health dashboards help authorities identify gaps and respond promptly. He also called for consideration of a 200-bed Level 6 regional referral hospital for infectious diseases. Kenya is working with neighbouring countries and international partners to strengthen surveillance, information sharing and preparedness.

The Cabinet Secretary said an effective response relies on early detection, rapid diagnosis, isolation, treatment and contact tracing. He urged Kenyans to remain vigilant, avoid panic and follow official public health updates. Anyone seeking information can call the Ministry of Health's toll-free line 719.





National Taskforce Coordinates Ebola Response

The National Ebola Virus Disease Taskforce met at Afya House on 7 October to coordinate the response following confirmation of Kenya's first imported case and review measures to prevent further transmission.

The Taskforce is overseeing contact tracing and monitoring, enhanced surveillance at points of entry, and the readiness of designated health facilities to isolate and manage suspected cases. The response is being carried out with county governments, development partners and technical and humanitarian partners.



Chairing the meeting, Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni urged Kenyans to remain calm and vigilant and to rely on updates from official Ministry of Health channels.





JKIA Strengthens Ebola Screening Measures

Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni has reaffirmed that Kenya is not experiencing an Ebola outbreak, following confirmation of one imported case from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

During a tour of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), the PS said preparedness had been heightened at the airport and other points of entry. Gate 16 has been designated to screen travellers arriving from 10 high-risk countries: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Angola, Zambia, Rwanda, Burundi, the Central African Republic and South Sudan.



Ms Muthoni also handed over tablets and hand sanitisers to support traveller screening and infection prevention at the airport.

She urged Kenyans to follow public health guidance and seek medical attention promptly at a recognised health facility if they experience symptoms or are concerned about possible exposure. The public can call the toll-free health information line 719 and follow official Ministry of Health channels for verified updates.



EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

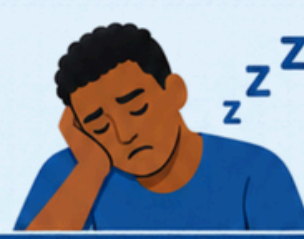
Signs and symptoms



Fever



Severe headache



Extreme tiredness
and weakness



Muscle pain



Sore throat



Vomiting



Diarrhoea



Skin rash



Unexplained bleeding



If you feel unwell, especially after contact with someone who is sick, seek medical care immediately.
Call 719 for guidance.



Protect yourself and others: Wash your hands with soap and water.
Avoid contact with a sick person's blood or body fluids and contaminated items.

EBOLA

How Ebola spreads

Through direct contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person, contaminated materials or infected animals.



Blood or body fluids of an infected person



Clothing or materials contaminated by an infected person



Unsterilised medical equipment



Infected wild animals



Contact with the body of someone who has died from Ebola



Ebola does not spread through the air.



Call 719 for guidance.