



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR HEALTH

### PRESS RELEASE

#### SECOND EBOLA CASE DETECTED EARLY: CONTACT TRACING AND QUARANTINE WORKING

Nairobi, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2026

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The Ministry of Health confirms a second case of Ebola (Bundibugyo Virus Disease) in Kenya. The patient, a 39-year-old man, is a close family member of the first case and was already in quarantine, under daily monitoring, when he fell ill on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2026. Kenya has now recorded two confirmed cases and one death.

**From quarantine to care.** As soon as he developed **fever, fatigue** and **joint pains**, the quarantine team isolated him and took a specimen. It tested positive at both the National Virology Reference Laboratory and the KEMRI-CDC laboratory, with matching results. He is now in a **designated treatment centre**, where trained teams are giving him supportive care. Because he was already in quarantine, his illness was **detected early**. Early supportive care improves his chances of recovery, and isolating him at the first symptom **limits the chance** of passing the virus to others. **This is the response working as designed**. The Ministry will share updates on his progress.

**Contact tracing and monitoring are working.** Both cases are linked, and there is **no evidence of spread in the wider community**. The Ministry has listed 128 contacts of the first case and, as at 13<sup>th</sup> October, had traced 113. Of these, 108 are in quarantine in Kenya, with daily clinical and temperature checks for 21 days from their last possible exposure. The other five are outside Kenya, and health authorities in those countries have been informed, as required under the International Health Regulations (2005). Tracing of the remaining 15 continues. Teams are also assessing everyone who has been in contact with the second case since his symptoms began, including quarantine staff and health workers.

**Next steps.** Any contact who develops a symptom will be **isolated** and **tested immediately**. Infection prevention and control has been reinforced at all quarantine and treatment sites, and health workers have the protective equipment they need. All health workers should apply strict infection prevention and control measures, whatever condition they are managing.

**A clear legal and coordinated response.** The response is guided by the Public Health (Declaration of Formidable Epidemic Disease) Order, 2026 and

the Public Health (Ebola Disease) Rules, 2026, and led through a single national command. The World Health Organization has been notified in line with the International Health Regulations (2005). Kenya remains open, with no restrictions on travel, trade or public gatherings.

**Our appeal to the public.** Stay **calm but remain vigilant**. Ebola is not spread through the air; it spreads through direct contact with the blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with, or has died from, the disease. Anyone with **fever, unusual tiredness, muscle or joint pains, vomiting, diarrhoea or unexplained bleeding** should seek care promptly at the nearest health facility. Please **respect** the privacy of the affected family, rely only on official Ministry of Health updates, and **call the toll-free line 719 for information**.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Amoth', is positioned above the printed name.

**Dr. Patrick Amoth, CBS**  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL**