

NEW MEXICO HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) ALERT

Ebola Disease Outbreak: Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda

May 26, 2026

Summary:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory regarding an [Ebola Outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo | HAN | CDC](#)

Current Situation:

On May 15, 2026, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Ministry of Health confirmed an Ebola outbreak in northeastern DRC. As of May 25, 2026, the DRC and Uganda Ministries of Health reported:

- DRC: A total of 906 suspected cases, 105 confirmed cases, 223 suspected deaths, and 10 confirmed deaths.
- Uganda: A total of 7 confirmed cases and 1 confirmed death; 5 cases have clear links to the first 2 confirmed cases.
- As of May 22, 2026, no cases have been reported in South Sudan. However, that area is included in travel screening recommendations.
- This is a rapidly evolving situation, and case counts are subject to change.

The causative agent is Bundibugyo virus, a type of orthoebolavirus with no approved vaccine or treatment. **No suspected, probable, or confirmed Ebola cases related to this outbreak have been reported in the United States. Risk to the general public in the U.S. remains low.**

Summary Points:

- Ebola disease is caused by orthoebolaviruses. The Bundibugyo species was identified in 2007 and historically has a 25–50% mortality rate.
- Incubation period: 2–21 days.
- Transmission: Direct contact with body fluids of symptomatic or deceased patients; contaminated objects; transmission from infected animals. There is no airborne transmission.
- Early “dry” symptoms include fever, aches, and fatigue. Later “wet” symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, and bleeding.

- Providers, including EMS personnel, should screen for travel history to the DRC, Uganda, or South Sudan and follow an identify, isolate, inform, and initiate care framework for evaluation.
- Providers should systematically assess patients with [compatible symptoms](#) for exposure risk and the possibility of viral hemorrhagic fevers (VHFs), including Bundibugyo virus disease (BVD), through a [triage and evaluation process](#).
- Federal agencies are conducting enhanced traveler screening and entry restrictions to prevent BVD importation.
- NMDOH can activate protocols for monitoring travelers, evaluating suspect cases, and managing potential exposures as needed.

There is currently no FDA approved vaccine or treatment for BVD. With intense supportive care and fluid replacement, mortality rates can be lowered.

Recommendations for New Mexico Clinicians & Healthcare Systems

CDC issued [Interim Guidance: Public Health Assessment and Management of Travelers Arriving from the Affected Countries during the 2026 Ebola Outbreak | Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers \(VHFs\) | CDC](#).

1. Identify

Screen for:

- Travel to the DRC, Uganda, or South Sudan within 21 days.
- Exposure to a symptomatic or confirmed BVD case.
 - Either within an affected country or exposed to a symptomatic individual who has traveled to an affected country within 21 days.
- Compatible symptoms:
 - Early: fever, headache, muscle/joint pain, sore throat, fatigue.
 - Later: vomiting, diarrhea, bleeding.
- CDC has provided a sample screening tool: [2026-Ebola-screening-Tool-for-HDs.docx](#)

2. Isolate

Symptomatic patients with relevant travel/exposure risk should immediately:

- Put on a procedural mask.
- Be placed under [transmission-based precautions for viral hemorrhagic fevers](#).
- Receive care in a single room with dedicated bathroom. Doors must remain closed.

Staff caring for symptomatic patients with relevant travel/exposure should:

- Follow [transmission-based precautions for viral hemorrhagic fevers](#).
- Use dedicated space to put on and take off their PPE to avoid cross contamination.
- Use dedicated medical equipment for that patient for the duration of admission.

- Limit use of needles and blood draws and follow strict safe injection practices.
- Avoid aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) if possible. When necessary, conduct AGPs using N95 respirators and eye protection in Airborne Infection Isolation Rooms (AIIRs).
- Follow all [environmental cleaning](#) and [waste management procedures](#).
- Exclude visitors from isolation area.
- Maintain a log of all people entering the patient's room.

3. Inform

- Immediately notify the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) on call epidemiologist (24/7): 833-796-8773. NMDOH will coordinate testing, care, and transfer if needed.

4. Initiate Care

- Testing for Ebola disease, including Bundibugyo virus, is available through the CDC Laboratory Response Network. Public health consultation is required before specimen submission.
- The regional special pathogen treatment capability for New Mexico is done in coordination with HHS Region 6.

Hospital Preparedness

New Mexico utilizes a hub and spoke approach with regional facilities functioning as evaluation/assessment facilities having the ability to hold a patient until diagnosis is confirmed before transferring to a facility with greater care capabilities.

- Hospitals have reviewed and are implementing the CDC hospital checklist.
- NMDOH is completing reviews with hospitals utilizing Ebola evaluations.
- NMDOH recommends weekly training on the new CDC hospital PPE guidance until competent then at least monthly.

Travel Restrictions:

On May 18, 2026, CDC and DHS implemented enhanced travel screening, entry restrictions, and public health measures to prevent Ebola virus disease from entering the United States amid ongoing outbreaks in East and Central Africa.

[Title 42 Order Suspending the Right to Introduce Certain Persons from Countries Where a Quarantinable Communicable Disease Exists](#)

[CDC Statement on the Use of Public Health Travel Restrictions to Prevent the Introduction of Ebola Disease into the United States](#)

More Information

CDC Interim Guidance:

[Interim Guidance: Public Health Assessment and Management of Travelers Arriving from the Affected Countries during the 2026 Ebola Outbreak | Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers \(VHFs\) | CDC.](#)

CDC: Ebola Disease Current Situation

<https://www.cdc.gov/ebola/situation-summary/index.html>

CDC HAN Advisory

<https://www.cdc.gov/han/php/notices/han00530.html>

CDC Travel Recommendations

[What Travelers Need to Know About Returning to the United States from DRC, Uganda, and South Sudan | Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers \(VHFs\) | CDC](#)

NMDOH Contacts

NMDOH 24/7 Helpline: 1-833-SWNURSE (1-833-796-8773)

New Mexico Health Alert Network: To register for the NM Health Alert Network, please visit the following site <https://nm.readyop.com/fs/4cjZ/10b2> Please register to begin receiving important health alerts, advisories, and updates.

Please Note that our system also utilizes text messaging to notify members of important health information. Due to FCC Regulation changes that are designed to decrease the amount of unwanted spam text messages sent each year to citizens, please save **(855) 596-1810** as the **“New Mexico Health Alert Network”** default phone number for your account used for text messages on the registered mobile device(s).