



DR CONGO

EBOLA OUTBREAK: SITUATION UPDATE AND CURRENT RISKS

22.05.2026

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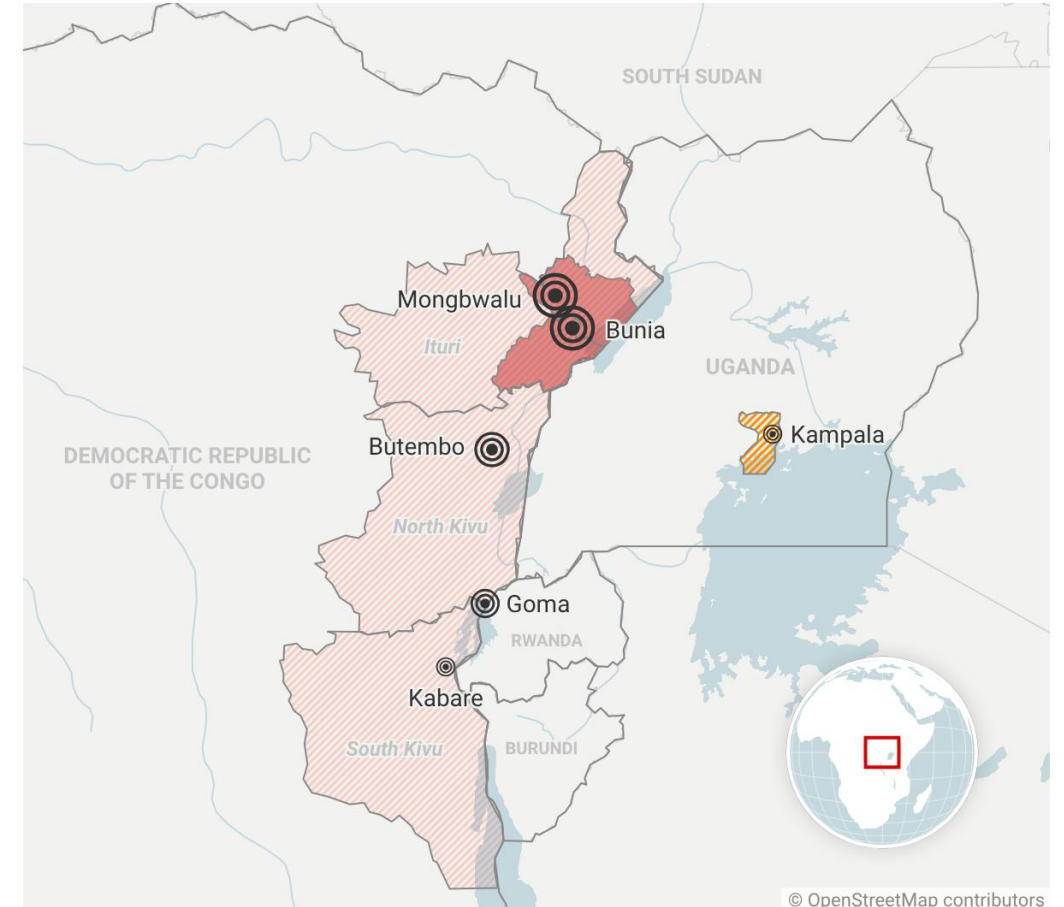
Health situation as of 22 May

Background | **5 May**, the World Health Organisation (WHO) received a report of a high-mortality outbreak in **Ituri Province**, in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**. **15 May**, laboratory tests formally identified the **Bundibugyo virus**, a particularly deadly **strain of Ebola** (with a fatality rate of between 30% and 50%), for which there is **no known vaccine or treatment**. **16 May**, the WHO declared the outbreak a “**public health emergency of international concern**” in the **DRC** and **Uganda**.

Epidemic patterns and affected areas | As of **22 May**, the WHO reports more than **750 suspected cases**, **82 confirmed cases** and **177 deaths**. The main outbreak is located in **Ituri Province**, particularly in the territories of **Djugu and Irumu**, and around the town of **Bunia**, but has spread in recent days and hours to **North Kivu**, with cases reported in **Katwa, Butembo and Goma**, and to **South Kivu**, with two confirmed cases in **Kabare**. The risk has been reassessed to the highest level (“very high”) by the WHO. **No cases** have been reported in the capital, **Kinshasa**, nor in **Burundi, Rwanda** or **South Sudan**. In **Uganda**, **two cases** have been confirmed in **Kampala**, one of which was fatal, with the situation deemed “stable”.

The Ebola virus | The **haemorrhagic fever** is transmitted through **direct contact with bodily fluids**. After an incubation period ranging from **2 to 21 days**, the disease initially presents with symptoms resembling those of flu (fever, fatigue, headaches, muscle pain) followed by possible digestive problems (vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, etc.) and potentially bleeding and/or organ failure.

Ebola Outbreak in DR Congo, as of 22 May 2026



- ⊙ Main towns affected
- ⊠ Affected provinces in the DRC
- Areas with intensive transmission (Djugu and Irumu)
- ▨ Districts in Uganda classified as "high-risk"

Measures and their impact on travel

DRC and neighbouring countries

DR Congo

- General safety and isolation guidelines
- Public buildings mostly open
- **Temperature checks** are being carried out at **Bunia Airport**

Uganda

- **Closure of the border with the DRC to passengers and a four-week suspension of all public transport** (flights, ferries and cross-border buses, with the exception of freight)
- **Wakiso and Kampala districts**, as well as the border areas, have been placed under health surveillance by the Ugandan authorities.
- **Screening stepped up at Entebbe Airport**

Burundi

- **"High Alert"** declared
- **Tighter controls at the country's entry points** and temporary testing facilities set up

Rwanda

- **Goma-Gisenyi border crossing** with the DRC **closed until further notice**

South Sudan

- **Surveillance measures in Juba, Yambio and at certain border posts** (Nimule)

International travellers

United States

- **Transit and mandatory testing at Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)** for all US citizens or permanent residents who have been in the **DRC, Uganda** or **South Sudan** within 21 days of their arrival in the United States

Bahrain

- **Entry of non-Bahraini visitors** from the **DRC, South Sudan** and **Uganda** **suspended for one month.**

Jordan

- **Temporary entry ban on non-Jordanian travellers arriving from the DRC and Uganda;** Jordanian nationals returning from these countries must undergo a 21-day quarantine.

Risks and Recommendations >

Short-term risks

- The risk of an epidemic is considered **very high at national level, high at regional level and low at global level according to the WHO**, with the epidemic potentially lasting more than two months
- **There is a risk of the virus spreading regionally**, fuelled by the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in eastern DRC, a lack of equipment, cross-border movements, and an international response that is less coordinated than during previous outbreaks of the virus (due in particular to the US withdrawal from the WHO and the reduction in USAID funding).
- Several countries **may introduce further health screening measures or restrictions on travel or assembly** in the coming days, depending on how the situation develops.

Recommendations

- **Please temporarily avoid non-essential travel to the worst-affected areas (DRC) and gatherings**
- **Keep up-to-date** with the latest health developments by checking the Twitter accounts of local health ministries, diplomatic service websites and the WHO
- **Strictly follow basic hygiene practices** (wash your hands regularly with soap or hand sanitiser)
- **Do not eat or handle bush meat**
- **Avoid direct contact** with the bodily fluids of people who may be ill or showing symptoms suggestive of the virus, and avoid all contact with wild animals that may be infected
- **Seek immediate medical advice if you develop any symptoms** (fever, aching muscles, stomach problems, headaches, body aches) up to 21 days after returning from an exposed area or an affected region.