



# Kenya Medical Association

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

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### **MEDIA RELEASE: STATEMENT ON KENYA'S FIRST CONFIRMED EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE CASE (BUNDIBUGYO STRAIN)**

**NAIROBI, 6th October 2026**

The Kenya Medical Association (KMA) is the umbrella professional association for doctors in Kenya, championing the welfare of doctors and quality healthcare for all Kenyans.

KMA takes note of the Ministry of Health's announcement of Kenya's first imported case of Ebola Virus Disease (Bundibugyo strain). We extend our deepest condolences to the family of the patient, who sadly passed away, and commend the health workers and laboratories whose swift action identified the case. We emphasize the importance of early case identification, strict contact tracing, quarantine and humane isolation.

One confirmed case is serious, but it is not cause for panic. KMA urges the public and health workers to act on the following key messages:

1. **Stay vigilant and report early.** Anyone with fever, weakness, vomiting, diarrhoea or unexplained bleeding who has been in the DRC, Uganda or South Sudan in the past 21 days, was on Jambo Jet flight 8523 that arrived in Nairobi on 3rd October, or had contact with a suspected case, should call 719 or \*719#, so that the receiving facility can prepare for their safe arrival, or go directly to the nearest facility if they cannot call, and declare their travel and contact history immediately.
2. **Quarantine protects everyone.** Monitoring contacts for 21 days means anyone who falls ill is treated within hours and does not unknowingly infect loved ones. The KMA calls on all persons under quarantine orders to comply fully, and calls on the MOH, county governments and health facilities to ensure quarantined individuals and their families receive support and daily medical monitoring.
3. **Health workers: protect yourselves.** Screen every patient for travel history, isolate suspected cases immediately, use EVD-level PPE when managing a suspected case, follow strict donning and doffing protocols; any unprotected exposure must be reported immediately, without waiting for laboratory results.
4. **Early care saves lives.** The Bundibugyo strain has historically been less deadly than the Zaire strain. In Uganda this year, 18 of 20 confirmed patients survived with early care. There is no approved vaccine or specific drug yet, so seeking care at the first sign of illness gives the best chance of survival.
5. **Ebola does not spread through the air or casual contact.** It spreads through the blood and body fluids of a sick person. Wash hands often and avoid contact with anyone who is ill. Rely on official sources and do not share rumors or the personal details of patients and contacts.

6. **We call on the Government of Kenya to ensure adequate PPE reaches all facilities without delay;** that isolation units remain at full readiness; that port of entry surveillance is intensified; and that frontline healthcare workers are protected and supported.

Kenya has the capacity to contain this outbreak. With early action, community cooperation, and transparent leadership, we will.

**Public Helpline:** Ministry of Health toll-free line 719 or \*719#

**Media Enquiries:** [ncc@kma.co.ke](mailto:ncc@kma.co.ke)



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