



The Republic of Uganda

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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PRESS RELEASE

YELLOW FEVER AND RIFT VALLEY FEVER OUTBREAKS

KAMPALA 21/04/2016 –. The Ministry of Health wishes to inform the public that since the onset of the Yellow Fever outbreak in Masaka and Rukungiri districts, only six cases have been confirmed. Three are admitted at Masaka Regional Referral Hospital while one is at Kebisoni Health center IV in Rukungiri district. On a sad note however, two people from Masaka succumbed to the disease.

The Government is planning free vaccination of the population aged six months and above in selected sub-counties in the high risk districts as the country continues to monitor the situation. Procurement of the vaccines is already in advanced stages and the vaccination exercise is expected to begin next month. According to the World Health Organization, vaccination is the most cost effective way of protecting people against the disease.

As one of the measures to manage the sick and suspected cases, the Government set up one Yellow Fever treatment centre at Masaka Regional Referral Hospital and another at Kebisoni Health Centre IV in Rukungiri district.

The Ministry of Health continues to undertake surveillance in the affected and neighboring districts as a way of mitigating further spread. The National taskforce surveillance team is identifying and following up suspected and alert cases.

The Ministry of Health appeals to the public to observe the following;

1. All travellers in and out of the country **MUST** be vaccinated against Yellow Fever. No traveller shall be allowed into or out of the country without proof of vaccination.

Currently the vaccines are available at four recognized health facilities at a cost. These are; Kampala Capital City Authority Health center IV at the City Hall, Norvic Hospital, Kazuri Clinic at the Entebbe International Airport, and The Surgery.

NOTE: This is premised upon the International Health Regulations (IHR) which require protection of countries against cross border transmission of Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers.

2. People are advised to always sleep under a treated mosquito net
3. Report any suspected cases to the nearest health facility.

UPDATE ON THE RIFT VALLEY FEVER OUTBREAK

As of today, only two cases have been confirmed since the declaration of the outbreak in Kabale district last month. The first case earlier admitted at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital has been discharged while the second is still admitted at Kabale Regional Referral Hospital. A total of 655 human samples have been collected for testing at the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) and the public will be updated on their samples.

Relatedly, a total of 1,057 animal samples have been tested and eight tested positive for the virus. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry is following up the cases as a way of curtailing the spread of the disease to other animals and human beings. The multi-sectoral national Task Force initially set up to handle the epidemic continues to undertake various interventions under the One Health Approach.

The Ministry of Health assures the public that all measures have been put in place to contain the outbreaks.



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Director General of Health Services

For further information, contact the Director General of Health Services or the Public Relations office on 0414 - 0417712287/077406388/0702205361