

# Bahrain moves early to contain Ebola risk with travel curbs

● 10 African countries are at risk due to mobility and insecurity

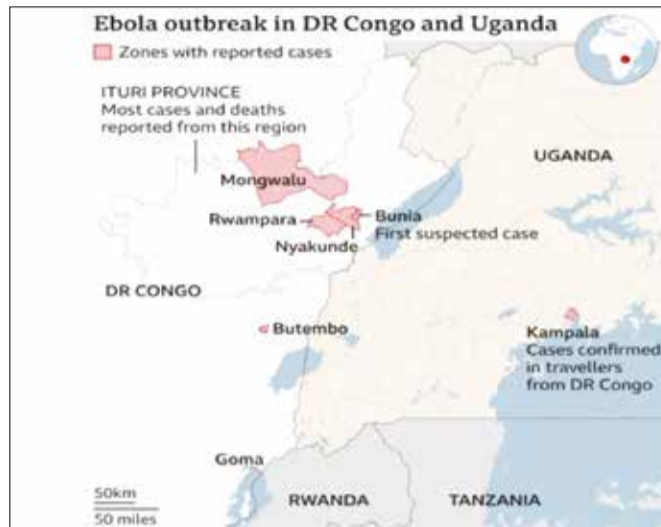
● US tightens screening and entry rules

● EU issues coordinated precautionary health measures

TDT | Manama  
Ashen Tharaka



Medical staff wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) carry disinfectant at the hospital in Rwampara



Source: WHO, DRC Health Ministry

The African Union's health chief Jean Kaseya has warned that ten additional countries are at risk of the virus spreading to them: Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia. He cited "high mobility and insecurity" as the main drivers.

Bahrain was among the first Gulf nations to act, suspending entry for non-Bahraini travellers arriving from South Sudan, the DRC, and Uganda from May 19, for 30 days. Bahraini nationals returning from those countries face mandatory health protocols.

## WHO Recommended Measures

- Exit screening in affected countries (temperature checks and symptom monitoring)
- Entry screening for travellers from affected regions
- Strengthened contact tracing for incoming passengers
- No blanket flight bans, to avoid disrupting aid and response efforts
- 21-day monitoring for anyone potentially exposed to the virus
- Health declaration forms and symptom checks for travellers
- Passenger observation and onboard crew monitoring
- Isolation and referral of suspected cases to health authorities



**"The risk in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been raised to very high, as the outbreak is likely much larger than confirmed figures suggest."**

- TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS, WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The United States, on May 18, announced enhanced travel screening and entry restrictions jointly with the Department of Homeland Security to prevent Ebola from reaching American soil.

The European Union held a senior-level Health Security Committee meeting on May 20, and on May 22 issued a common EU approach including precautionary measures and exit screening recommendations. European Commission

Uganda suspended all public transport links to the DRC upon confirming its first cases. It also

postponed its annual Martyrs' Day celebrations — an event that can attract up to two million people — specifically because of the epidemic risk.

This is the DRC's 17th Ebola outbreak since the virus was first discovered — and it is moving faster and wider than any in recent memory. A deadly strain with no cure, a conflict-shattered region, and a highly mobile population are a dangerous combination. The world has stopped Ebola before through swift, coordinated action. That same urgency is now needed again. The clock is ticking.

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