



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY (NPHA)



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EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE: GOVERNMENT PREPAREDNESS AND GUIDANCE TO THE PUBLIC | 17 May 2026

SIERRA LEONE IS EBOLA-FREE

No confirmed, suspected, or probable cases of Ebola Virus Disease in Sierra Leone.

SITUATION

An active Ebola (Bundibugyo strain) outbreak has been declared in **Ituri Province, DRC** — 246 suspected cases and 65 deaths as of 17 May 2026. Uganda has confirmed one imported death; no local transmission. Regional spread risk is elevated. Sierra Leone’s risk is currently **LOW** — but given our 2014–2016 experience, we are acting now.

WHAT GOVERNMENT IS DOING

- PHEOC activated at Heightened Readiness (Alert Level 2); National Emergency Health Committee convened
- Enhanced screening at Lungi Airport, Freetown Harbour, and Kambia, Gbalamuya & Kailahun land borders
- PPE, isolation materials & rapid diagnostics pre-positioned to Western Area and border districts
- Rapid Response Teams on standby in all 16 districts; IPC protocols reinforced at key facilities
- Active coordination with Africa CDC, ECOWAS, WHO, and DRC/Uganda/Guinea/Liberia counterparts

WHAT YOU MUST DO

- **Call 117 immediately if you or anyone you know develops sudden fever, severe headache, vomiting, diarrhoea, rash, or unexplained bleeding — especially after travel from DRC or Uganda**
- Avoid unnecessary travel to affected areas in DRC and Uganda
- Do not handle blood or bodily fluids of any person with unexplained haemorrhagic illness
- Wash hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based sanitiser
- Follow updates only from official Government channels: NPHA, MoH, SLBC

APPEAL TO HEALTH WORKERS

Maintain a high index of suspicion for haemorrhagic fever in any patient with travel history from DRC or Uganda. Report any suspected case immediately to your DHMT or call 117. Strictly observe standard IPC precautions at all times. Do not attempt to manage a suspected case in an unprepared facility — activate isolation and call for Rapid Response Team support.

The Government of Sierra Leone is prepared. We ask every citizen to be equally alert, calm, and cooperative. Together, we will keep Sierra Leone safe.

Signed:

Brig. Gen. Prof. Foday Sahr
Executive Director,
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