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IN ANY CORRESPONDENCE ON

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

THIS SUBJECT PLEASE QUOTE NO

CDC 085/600/03

26<sup>th</sup> May 2026

All Ministries, Departments and Agencies

All Resident District Commissioners

All Chief Administrative Officers

All Cultural and Religious Leaders

All Event Organizers

All District Health Officers

### **CIRCULAR ON RESTRICTION OF MASS GATHERINGS IN KAMPALA METROPOLITAN AREA (KMA) AND HIGH-RISK DISTRICTS DURING THE ONGOING EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD) OUTBREAK**

The Ministry of Health wishes to inform all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Local Governments, Cultural and Religious Institutions, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations, private sector entities, event organizers and the general public that following the ongoing Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak and the heightened risk of transmission associated with population movement and mass gatherings, additional public health measures have been instituted to strengthen outbreak prevention and control efforts.

In line with the resolutions of the National Task Force meeting held on **Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026**, chaired by **H.E. the Vice President of Uganda**, and considering the elevated risk within Kampala Metropolitan Area and identified high-risk border districts, the following directives shall take immediate effect.

These measures are intended to minimize opportunities for person-to-person contact that may increase the risk of transmission of Ebola infection in the event of exposure to an infected individual.

#### **1. GATHERINGS AND ACTIVITIES THAT SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED**

The following non-structured gatherings and activities that are likely to attract large crowds, uncontrolled movement, prolonged physical interaction, excessive physical exertion and close contact are hereby suspended until further notice:

- Music concerts and entertainment shows;
- Cultural festivals, celebrations and commemorative events;
- Public rallies and political mobilization gatherings;
- Marathons, road races, walkathons and similar activities that involve prolonged physical exertion, increased sweating and close crowd interaction;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'L' followed by a flourish.

- Border-related social, market and commercial activities likely to attract uncontrolled crowds;
- Community celebrations and public recreational events;
- Any other non-essential gathering where effective Infection Prevention and Control measures cannot be guaranteed.

These activities increase risk by promoting close physical interaction, uncontrolled crowd mixing and unnecessary movement, which may facilitate transmission of Ebola infection where an infected person is present.

## **2. GATHERINGS AND MEETINGS THAT MAY BE PERMITTED**

Structured official, institutional and essential gatherings may proceed only where strict observance of Ministry of Health Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) is ensured.

Permitted gatherings must:

- Be conducted in controlled venues with organized and structured seating arrangements, with adequate spacing between participants to minimize close body contact;
- Avoid unnecessary mingling before, during, and after meetings or any such engagements or events;
- Maintain controlled attendance to avoid overcrowding, with participation limited to key essential participants only;
- Ensure adequate ventilation within the venue to minimize excessive heat and sweating, and reduce unnecessary close interactions;
- Ensure proper sanitation of toilets, bathrooms, and all common-use areas through regular cleaning and disinfection using **JIK, bleach, and other approved detergents and disinfectants** to minimize any form of environmental contamination and strengthen infection prevention and control;
- Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizers at strategic locations or adequate handwashing facilities with running water and soap, and ensure proper and consistent use by all participants;
- Ensure all participants wash or sanitize their hands before entering and upon exiting the venue;
- Conduct mandatory temperature screening for all participants prior to entry;
- Strictly avoid physical greetings, including handshakes, hugging, and all other forms of unnecessary direct physical contact, which increase the risk of community transmission in the event of contact with an infected person or contaminated bodily fluids;
- Avoid sharing personal items, including phones, pens, drinking containers, utensils and other frequently handled materials;
- Designate focal persons responsible for ensuring strict compliance with infection prevention and control measures throughout the engagement;

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- Sanitise the hands before and after handling microphones;
- Encourage all participants to remain vigilant and look out for symptoms among neighbours, colleagues or fellow participants, and immediately report any suspected signs such as fever, weakness, vomiting, diarrhea or unexplained bleeding to the nearest health authorities.

### **3. PERSONAL INFECTION PREVENTION MEASURES**

All persons attending permitted gatherings are required to:

- Frequently wash hands thoroughly with soap and running water, particularly before entering and after leaving public spaces or shared facilities;
- Regularly sanitize hands using alcohol-based hand sanitizers, especially where handwashing facilities are not immediately accessible;
- Maintain strict avoidance of physical greetings and unnecessary direct contact with others;
- Observe high standards of personal hygiene at all times, including cleanliness of personal clothing and frequently touched personal effects;
- Avoid sharing personal items such as mobile phones, pens, utensils, drinking containers, towels and other commonly handled materials;
- Remain vigilant for symptoms among themselves and those around them, and immediately report any signs suggestive of Ebola Virus Disease, including fever, unexplained weakness, vomiting, diarrhea, severe headache or unexplained bleeding, to the nearest health facility or district surveillance team for immediate assessment and response.

### **4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ORGANIZERS**

All organizers of permitted gatherings shall ensure full compliance with Ministry of Health Infection Prevention and Control measures.

Organizers shall specifically ensure:

- Availability and proper use of handwashing and sanitization facilities;
- Routine cleaning and disinfection of venues and sanitation facilities;
- Proper crowd control and adherence to spacing requirements;
- Immediate reporting of any suspected illness among participants;
- Full cooperation with district surveillance and public health response teams.

District Local Governments, Resident District Commissioners and District Health Teams shall supervise the implementation of these guidelines and take immediate corrective action where non-compliance is observed. These guidelines shall be implemented in the following high-risk districts: Kampala, Wakiso, Mpigi, Mukono, Yumbe, Koboko, Maracha, Arua, Obongi, Madi-Okollo, Zombo, Pakwach, Nebbi, Lamwo, Buliisa, Hoima, Kikuube, Kagadi, Ntoroko, Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo, Kamwenge, Bunyangabu, Kabarole, Fortportal City, Bundibugyo, Kasese, Kanungu, Kisoro, Kiryandongo.

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## **5. ENFORCEMENT**

Security agencies and district authorities are directed to strictly enforce these measures, particularly in high-risk districts and border areas, to limit non-essential movement and prevent circumstances that may facilitate transmission of Ebola infection through direct human-to-human contact and uncontrolled public interaction.

Any individual or institution found in violation of these directives shall be subject to appropriate enforcement action in accordance with the National Public Health Act and Regulations.

The Ministry of Health will continue to monitor the situation and issue further guidance as necessary.

All stakeholders are urged to cooperate fully in safeguarding public health and preventing further spread of Ebola Virus Disease.

**For God and My Country**



Dr. Diana Atwine

**PERMANENT SECRETARY**

**Copy to:**

- H.E. The Vice President / Chairperson, National Task Force
- Inspector General of Police
- Director General Health Services
- All District Health Officers