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Office fédéral de la santé publique OFSP
Ufficio federale della sanità pubblica UFSP
Federal Office of Public Health FOPH

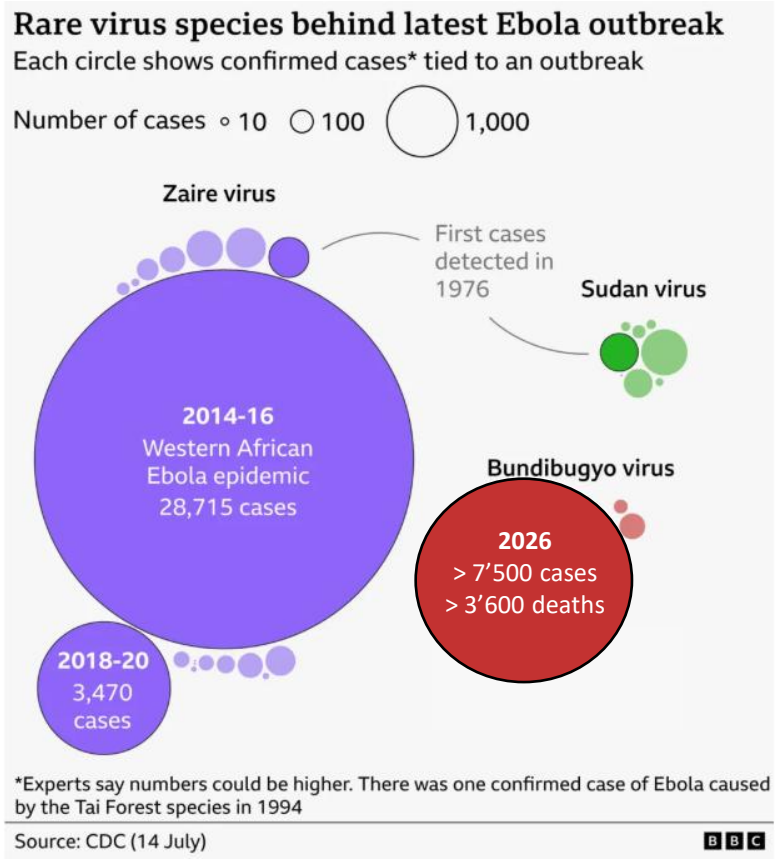
Simulation exercises on the management of Ebola virus disease in Switzerland

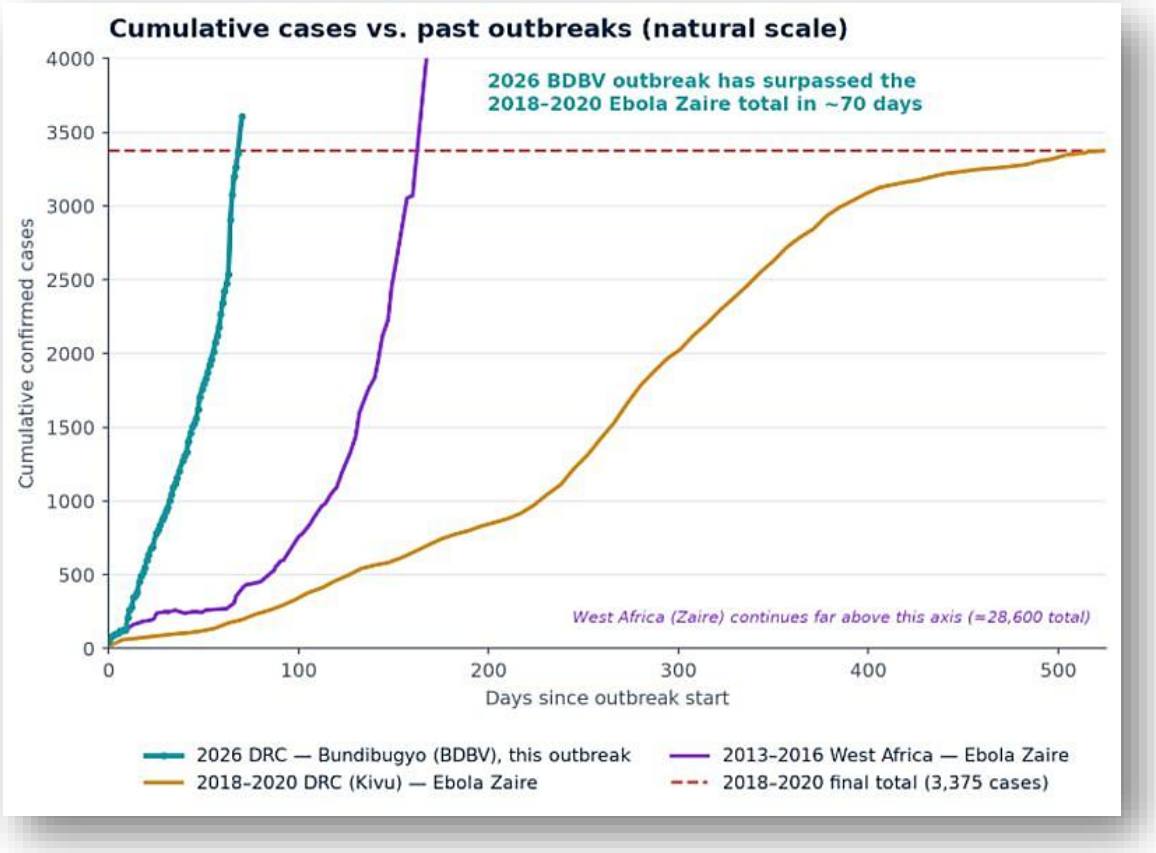
Michael Bel, Federal Office of Public Health, Switzerland



Bundibugyo virus outbreak in DRC

Bundibugyo outbreak in DRC – Big and fast growing

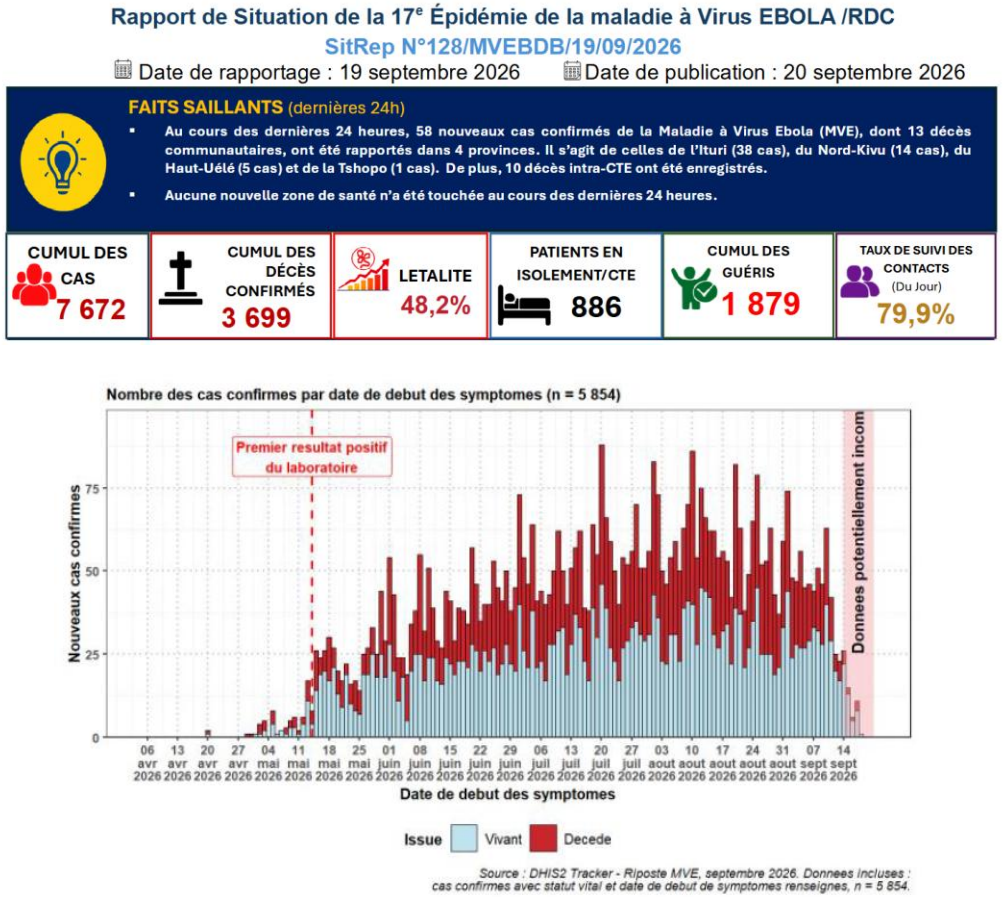




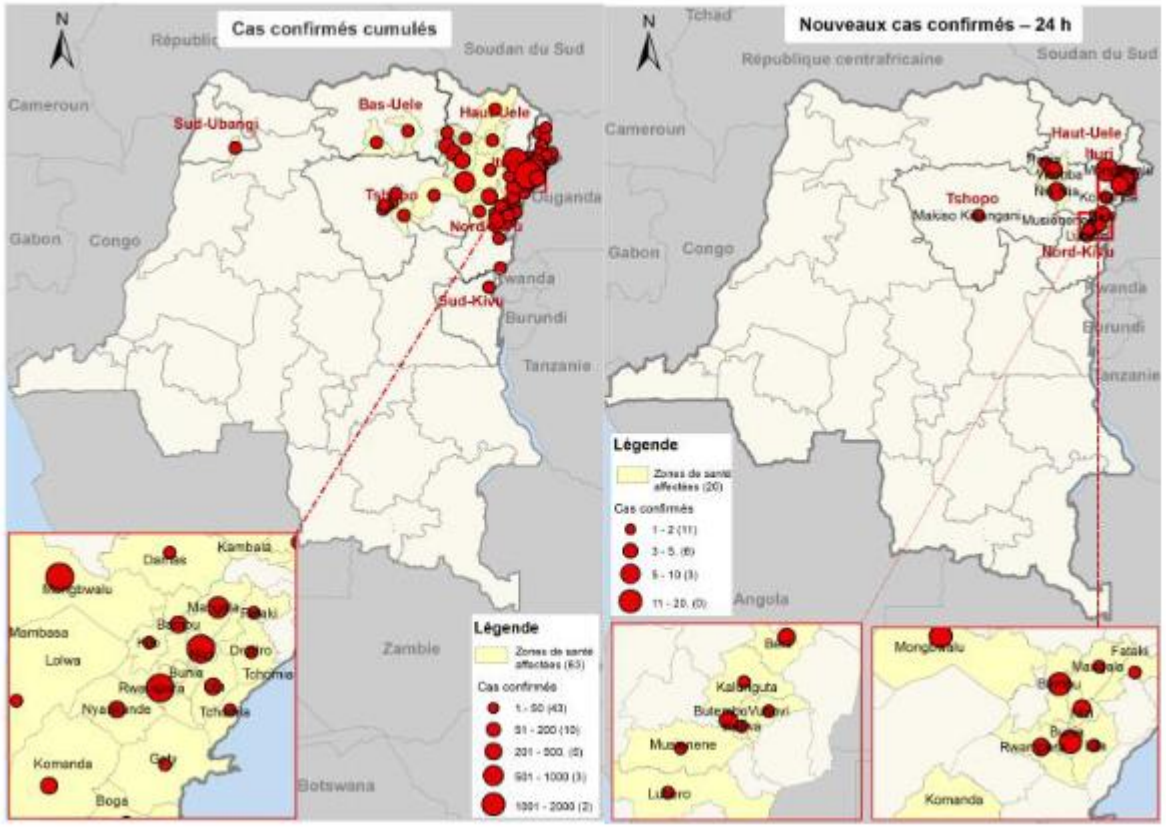
Adapted from What is Ebola, how does it spread and why is DR Congo outbreak an 'emergency'?

CEPI sur X

Bundibugyo outbreak in DRC – case number and spread



SitRep N°128/MVEBDB/19/09/2026 – Institut National de Sante Publique



SitRep N°128/MVEBDB/19/09/2026 – Institut National de Sante Publique

Management of Ebola in Switzerland

Risk evaluation

In absence of an ongoing outbreak abroad, the probability of occurrence (importation) and spread of infections in Switzerland is **extremely low** (close to 0).

- *VHF viruses not present in bats in Switzerland*
- *No animal experiment using monkeys in Switzerland*



During an outbreak abroad, the probability of occurrence and spread of infections is **very low**. In combination with the potential impact, the public health risk for the general population in Switzerland is **low**.

People at risk are :

- *Traveller / Tourist*
- *Family in Switzerland*
- ***Health professionnals (IO, NGO)***



Reference hospitals and partners for Ebola in Switzerland

Geneva

University Hospital including isolation room and a reference laboratory

Health authorities at local level

International airport GVA

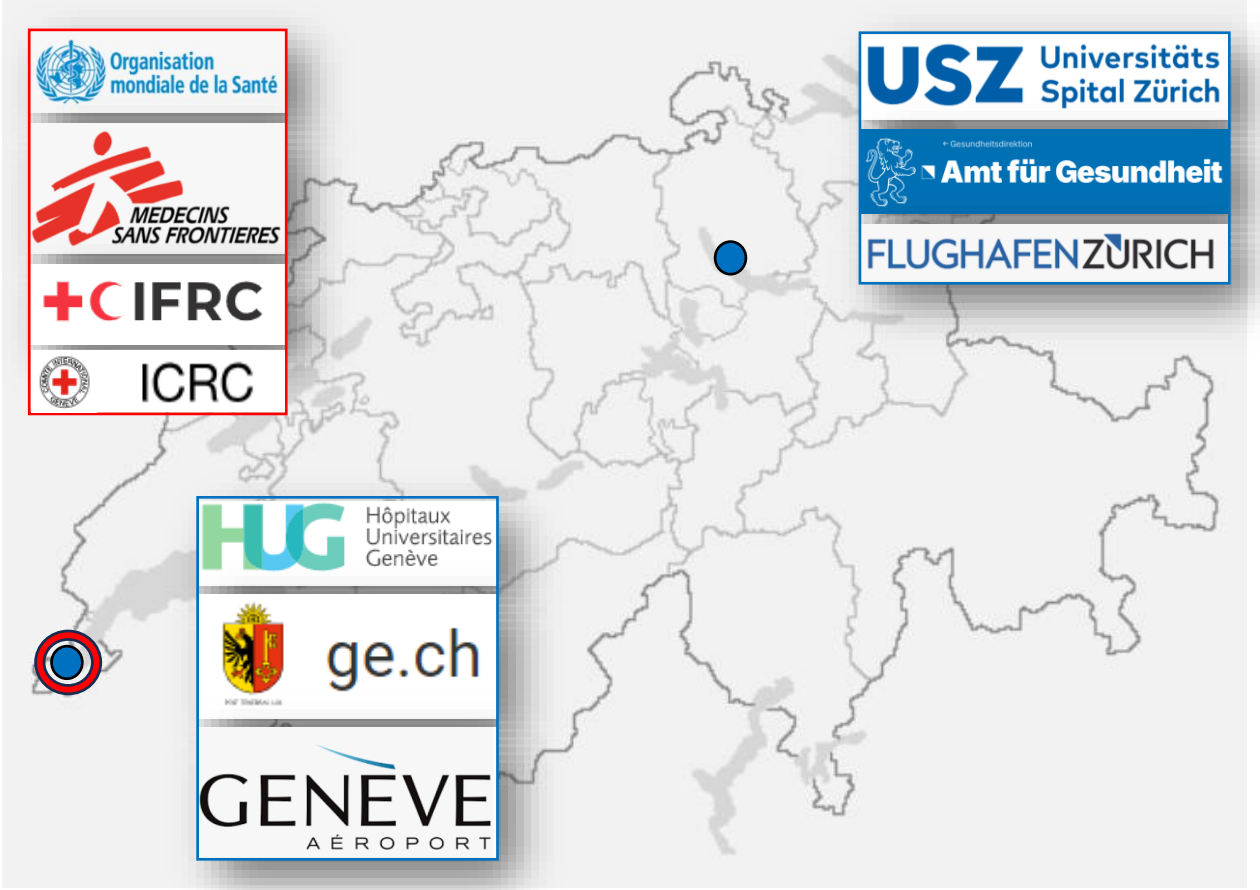
WHO, MSF, IFRC, ICRC

Zurich

University Hospital including isolation room and partner laboratory

Health authorities at local level

International airport ZRH



International and national transport with Rega



NZZ am Sonntag 22. Februar 2015 | Schweiz

Rega fliegt ihren ersten Ebola-Einsatz

Die Luftretter haben ein System zum Transport hochansteckender Patienten entwickelt. Am Dienstag repatriierten sie erfolgreich eine britische Ärztin aus Sierra Leone

Eine Britin mit Verdacht auf Ebola wird von der Rega nach London geflogen. (17. Februar 2015)

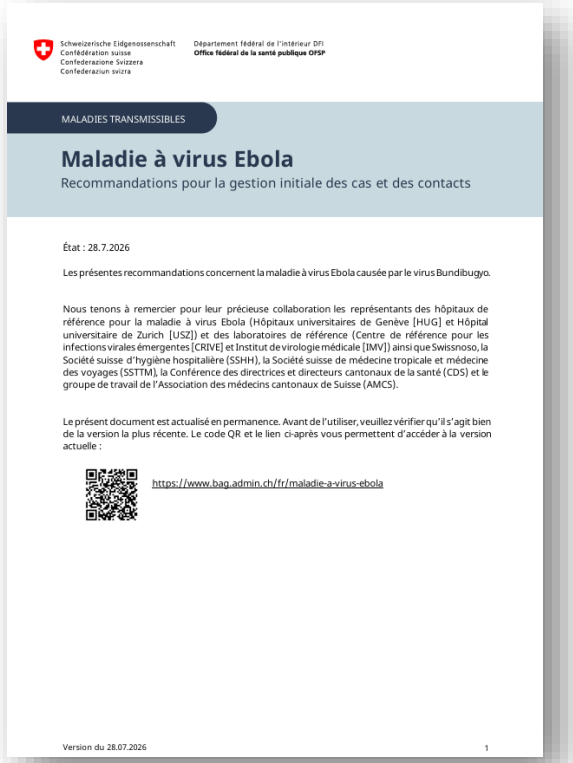
International medical evacuation from Sierra Leone to London (UK) with Rega (2015)



Transport at national level with Rega (training in Zurich)

Recommandation and algorithms

Initial Management
of cases and contacts



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Département fédéral de l'intérieur DFI
Office fédéral de la santé publique OFSP

MALADIES TRANSMISSIBLES

Maladie à virus Ebola

Recommandations pour la gestion initiale des cas et des contacts

État : 28.7.2026

Les présentes recommandations concernent la maladie à virus Ebola causée par le virus Bundibugyo.

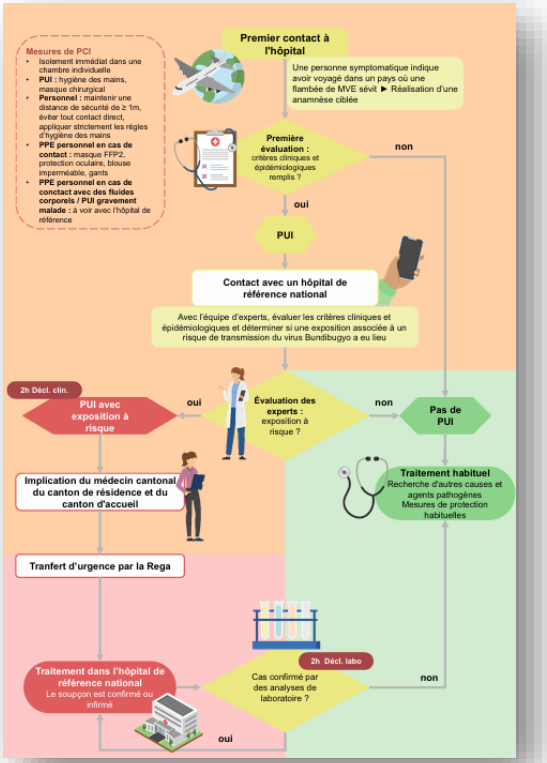
Nous tenons à remercier pour leur précieuse collaboration les représentants des hôpitaux de référence pour la maladie à virus Ebola (Hôpitaux universitaires de Genève [HUG] et Hôpital universitaire de Zurich [USZ]) et des laboratoires de référence (Centre de référence pour les infections virales émergentes [CRIVE] et Institut de virologie médicale [IMV]) ainsi que Swissnoso, la Société suisse d'hygiène hospitalière (SSHH), la Société suisse de médecine tropicale et médecine des voyages (SSTTM), la Conférence des directrices et directeurs cantonaux de la santé (CDS) et le groupe de travail de l'Association des médecins cantonaux de Suisse (AMCS).

Le présent document est actualisé en permanence. Avant de l'utiliser, veuillez vérifier qu'il s'agit bien de la version la plus récente. Le code QR et le lien ci-après vous permettent d'accéder à la version actuelle :

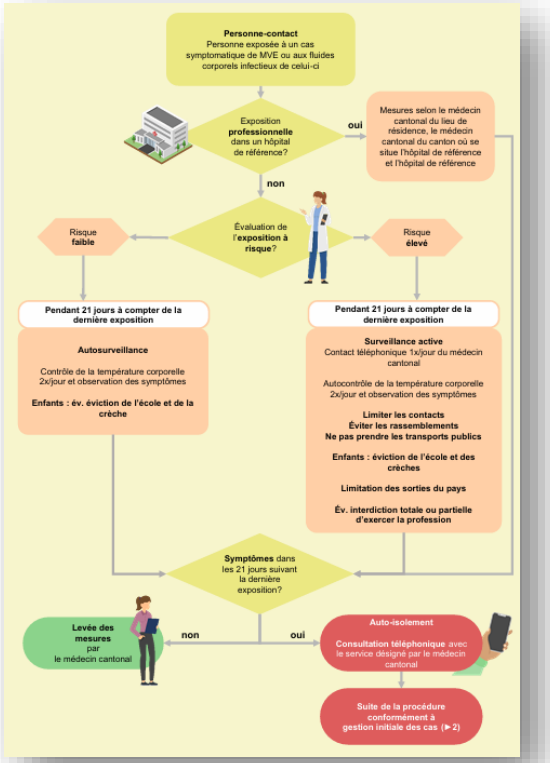
https://www.bag.admin.ch/fr/maladie-a-virus-ebola

Version du 28.07.2026 1

Management of **suspected cases**
and hospital transfer



Measures for
contact persons



https://www.bag.admin.ch/virus-Ebola-Recommandations-pour-la-gestion-initiale-des-cas-et-des-contacts.pdf

Ebola Table Top Exercise Geneva, January 2025

Participants and scenario

REPUBLIQUE ET CANTON DE GENEVE
Département de la santé et des mobilités
Office cantonal de la santé

Hôpitaux Universitaires Genève

GENÈVE AÉROPORT

INCENDIE SECOURS GENÈVE

144

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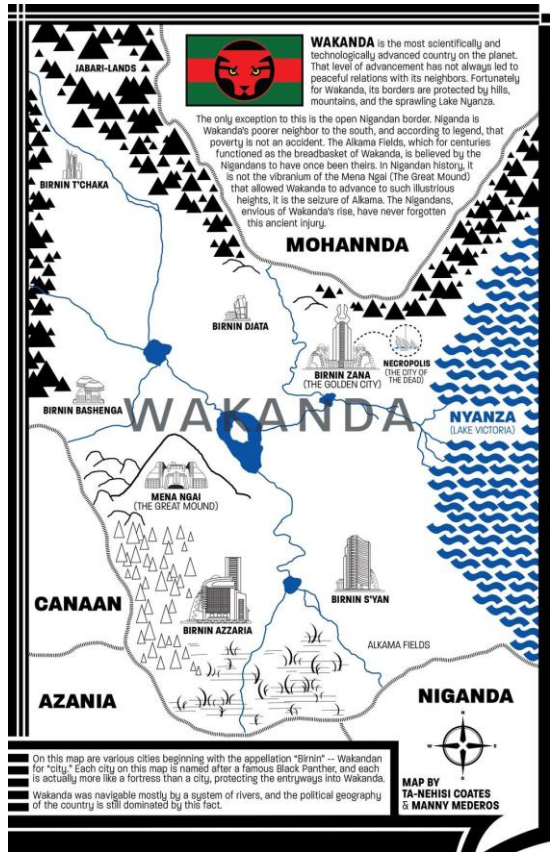
World Health Organization

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES

Wakanda, a fictious country with experience in the management of Ebola

NEW in 2025

- Outbreak in the capital city, urban setting
- « Super spreading event » at the University Hospital
- International response, coordinated by WHO, with MSF as an involved partner
- Health professional infected and tested positive for Ebola in Wakanda
- Decision to MEDEVAC to Geneva



Goals





- **Test procedures** in case of a medical evacuation
- **Reinforce coordination** and networking among involved partners
- Ensure efficient **collaboration between the different teams**
- Actualize protocols, identify possible gaps and define an action plan
- Prepare the simulation exercise 1:1

Ebola Simulation Exercise Geneva, November 2025

Setting for live stream

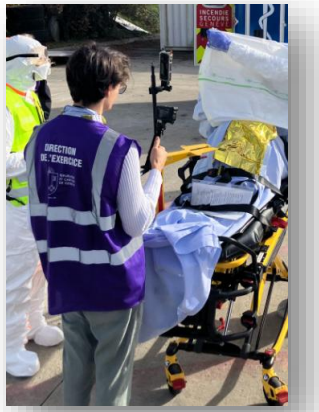
Team « on site »

« video » team

and « live stream » team

Airport





Hospital







University Hospital in Geneva

Exercise preparation at the airport




Briefing at the airport




MEDEVAC plane and Ebola patient





Transfer to the exercise site




Ambulance staff wearing personal protective equipment (PPE)

Exercise start at the airport



Medical and flight briefing



Patient installed on the stretcher



Transfer into the ambulance



Discussion and debriefing

Transfer from the airport to the hospital



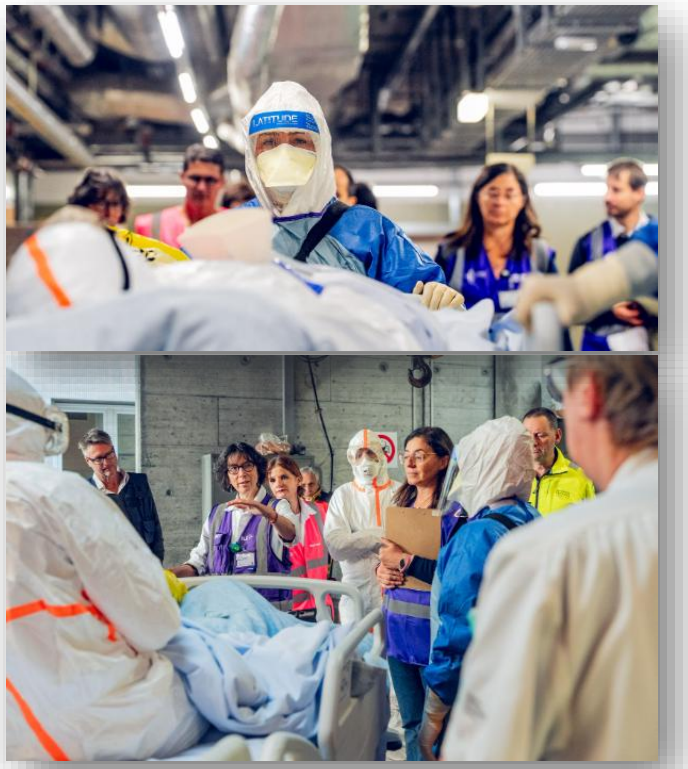
Arrival at hospital



Transfer from the stretcher to the bed



PPE doffing (removal)



Transport to the room and debriefing

In the patient’s room



Reception of the patient in the isolation room



Patient’s PPE removal and blood sampling



Debriefing

Laboratory analysis



PoCT in the patient room
(clinical chemistry, blood gas and cells count)



Ebola diagnostic at the
reference laboratory (BSL4)

End of the exercise





Final debriefing and plenum discussion



Picture of the participants

Learnings

- Geneva is ready in case of a medical evacuation of an Ebola patient
- Many players, a good collaboration and coordination is key
- It helps to know the people, their tasks and responsabilities before the event starts
- Communication is a central issue before, during and after the event
- Protocols are essential but space should be given to react with pragmatism to any incident (e.g. vomit)
- The devil is in the details… there are still some points to address…

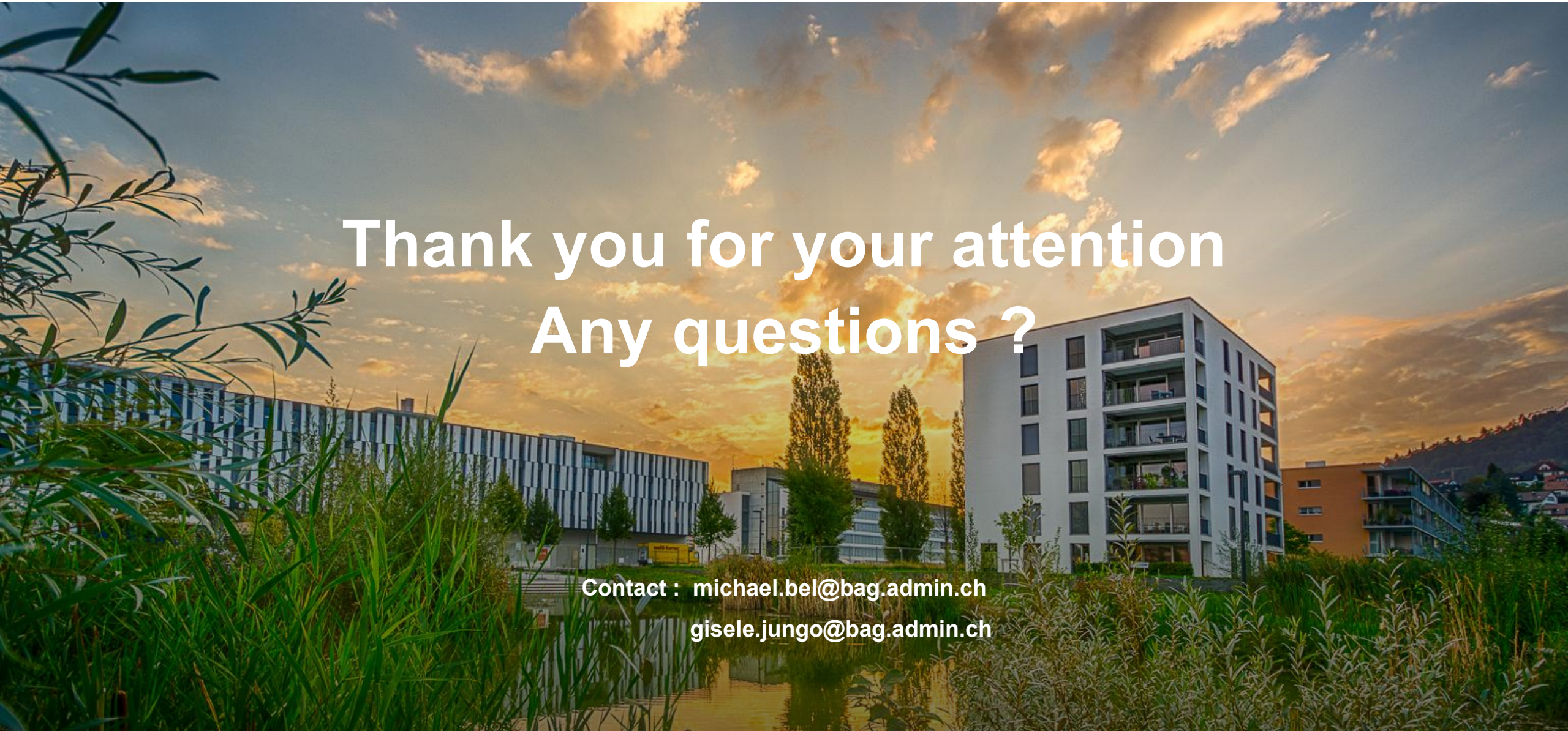
Perspectives

- Integrate the use of a patient isolation unit (epishuttle) in the process (and in the protocols)
- Test the transport with Rega (national)
- Test the desinfection and decontamination procedures (ground, ambulance, isolation room)
- Management of dead bodies including international transport and regulation
- Actualisation of IPC recommandations ? Establish guideline for PPE ?
- Table top and simulation exercises in Zurich in 2026

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Thank you for your attention
Any questions ?

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gisele.jungo@bag.admin.ch