

CAPSCA Update

WHO Temporary Recommendations on Ebola Bundibugyo Virus Disease — 24 August 2026

On 18 August 2026, the WHO Emergency Committee (EC), regarding the epidemic of Ebola Bundibugyo virus disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, held their second meeting to reassess the situation, in line with [International Health Regulations \(2005\)](#), amended in 2024. Updated temporary recommendations regarding the Ebola outbreak, based on advice from the EC, were issued by the WHO Director-General on 24 August 2026.

The detailed recommendations are available at this link:

<https://www.who.int/news/item/24-08-2026-second-meeting-of-the-ihc-emergency-committee-on-the-epidemic-of-ebola-bundibugyo-virus-disease-in-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-temporary-recommendations>

The most relevant elements for CAPSCA members regarding international travel, border health, aviation, and public health preparedness are summarised below:

1. Risk Assessment

As of 14 August 2026:

- States Parties with community transmission of Bundibugyo virus disease (currently the Democratic Republic of the Congo) are assessed as Very High Risk.
- States sharing borders with affected areas are assessed as High Risk.
- All other States are assessed as Low Risk.

2. International Travel and Trade

No Travel or Trade Restrictions:

- WHO does not recommend suspension of international flights from affected States.
- WHO does not recommend denying entry to travellers solely because they have travelled from affected areas.

3. Restriction of travel of cases and contacts

Affected States should:

- Prevent suspected, probable and confirmed BVD cases from undertaking international travel.
- Restrict international travel of contacts, based on exposure-risk assessment.
- Permit travel only when part of an appropriate medical evacuation.

4. Border Health Preparedness

States should:

- Be prepared to detect, assess and manage travellers presenting with unexplained fever or Ebola-compatible symptoms.
- Ensure public health authorities, airports, airlines, travel clinics and healthcare facilities are aware of Ebola case definitions and reporting requirements.
- Establish arrangements with neighbouring States to enhance surveillance at border crossings and bordering areas.
- Establish coordination mechanisms for sharing information concerning contacts who have crossed, or may have crossed, international borders.

5. Provide traveller health information

Travellers arriving from affected areas should receive information on:

- Ebola symptoms and what actions to take if symptoms develop; and
- the need to seek medical attention within 21 days of possible exposure.

6. Preparedness for suspected cases during transport

States should coordinate with Airlines, Airports and other transport operators to support:

- Rapid management of suspected cases during travel.
- Pre-arrival notification to health authorities, when needed.
- Effective identification and follow-up of passenger contacts.

- Availability of PPE, infection prevention and control materials, sample kits and case documentation at high-risk borders and points of entry.
- Hand Hygiene at Points of Entry.

7. Contact tracing and information sharing

States should:

- Establish mechanisms to share information regarding potentially exposed travellers.
- Ensure continuity of monitoring when contacts move across international borders.
- Exchange information on contacts and suspected cases with neighbouring countries.

8. Exit screening in affected areas

For States where community transmission occurs:

- Conduct exit screening at airports, ports and land crossings.
- Availability of screening personnel appropriately equipped with PPE.
- Screening should include:
 - Exposure history questions.
 - Temperature checks.
 - Further assessment of febrile travellers.

9. Cross-border coordination

States sharing borders with affected areas should:

- Enhance surveillance at border crossings.
- Exchange information on contacts and suspected cases.
- Continue monitoring travellers who cross borders.
- Establish mechanisms to ensure continuity of follow-up for contacts moving across borders.
- Prevent cross-border movement of human remains from suspected, probable or confirmed BVD cases unless authorized bilaterally.

10. Reporting under the International Health Regulations (IHR)

States should:

- Immediately notify WHO of suspected, probable or confirmed Ebola cases.
- Inform WHO of implementation of any international traffic measures adopted.