



June 3, 2026

## **2026 Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda: Recommendations for EMS**

*This memo is intended for Emergency Medical Providers operating in Arizona. ADHS will continue to provide updates on a regular basis as the situation evolves.*

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) is monitoring an [outbreak of Ebola disease](#) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda caused by the Bundibugyo virus (*Orthoebolavirus bundibugyoense*). **To date, no cases of Ebola disease have been confirmed in the United States because of this outbreak. The overall risk to the American public and travelers is low. However, EMS should be aware of the potential for imported cases.**

On May 18, 2026, CDC and other federal agencies announced enhanced travel screening, entry restrictions, and public health measures to reduce the risk of Ebola disease caused by the Bundibugyo virus. Individuals who have traveled through the affected countries within the last 21 days and are returning to Arizona will be contacted by local and tribal public health departments to receive a [risk assessment](#) in coordination with ADHS to determine risk level.

- Low-risk individuals are those that travel to an affected country but not an area of concern.
- High-risk individuals are those that have a potential exposure.

**There are currently no high-risk individuals being monitored by public health in Arizona.**

Local and tribal health departments are communicating with travelers arriving in their jurisdictions from an affected country and monitoring travelers based on the level of risk identified on the exposure assessment. Public health authorities will work with hospitals and EMS if any of the individuals being monitored require medical evaluation. The local health department or individual will notify EMS and the healthcare facility before an individual arrives. However, EMS and healthcare facilities should be prepared in the unlikely event of no advanced notification.

Most ill travelers returning from an area of concern will likely have a more common infection, such as malaria. However, many of these viral illnesses have similar initial presentations. EMS agencies should be prepared to transport patients with highly transmissible pathogens. Infection prevention practices can mitigate the risk of transmission of communicable disease. EMS agencies are encouraged to increase Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF), including Ebola, awareness and readiness among their personnel and facilitate [training](#) and infection control practices for highly transmissible pathogens such as viral hemorrhagic fevers.

EMS should contact their tribal or [local health department](#) immediately to report a suspect Ebola case or if they have any questions regarding necessary precautions to take. The health department will provide instructions for further assessment and will work with ADHS to coordinate care and diagnostic testing for the patient.



**General Ebola Information:**

[Ebola Outbreak: Current Situation | Ebola | CDC](#)

[Ebola Disease Basics | Ebola | CDC](#)

[Clinical Guidance for Ebola Disease | Ebola | CDC](#)

**NETEC:**

NETEC provides direct, hands-on educational courses and operational playbooks specifically tailored for EMS agencies and frontline medical transport teams.

- EMS Featured Resources Dashboard: [NETEC EMS Resources](#)
- Education and Online Courses: [NETEC Training Hub](#)

*Access to free continuing education credits (CEU), including specific modules such as EMS Biosafety Transport for Operators.*

**CDC:**

- Public Health Guidance for Ebola Disease: [CDC Public Health Strategy](#)
- Interfacility Transport Strategy: [CDC Plan for Interfacility Transport](#)

**ASPR:**

Health care readiness requirements that link EMS systems to regional treatment centers.

- Regional Ebola & Special Pathogen Treatment Networks: [ASPR Health Care Readiness Guidance](#)

**Public Health Resources:**

[County Health Departments | Contacts | ADHS](#)

For any questions, please contact me at [Gail.Bradley@azdhs.gov](mailto:Gail.Bradley@azdhs.gov).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gail Bradley".

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