

PROTOCOL FOR HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS AND ESSENTIAL TRAVELERS TO AND FROM EBOLA-BUNDIBUGYO AFFECTED AREAS

1. PURPOSE

This protocol facilitates humanitarian missions and essential travel related to the Ebola-Bundibugyo outbreak in affected areas of the DRC while protecting public health in Rwanda.

Implementation shall be coordinated by the Ministry of Health through the National Ebola Preparedness and Response Command Post.

2. SCOPE

This protocol applies during periods of Ebola-related travel restrictions and covers approved travelers entering, departing, or transiting through Rwanda.

3. ELIGIBLE TRAVELERS

3.1 Medical Patients

Patients requiring urgent treatment, referrals, or approved medical evacuation may be facilitated subject to Ministry of Health review.

3.2 Public Health and Emergency Personnel

Eligible travelers include health experts, laboratory specialists, emergency responders, and other personnel supporting Ebola response efforts.

3.3 Essential Logistics Personnel

Eligible travelers include drivers and personnel transporting food, medical supplies, fuel, humanitarian aid, and other essential goods.

3.4 Diplomatic Missions

Critical diplomatic travel may be approved following review by the Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs.

3.5 Exceptional Travel

Other urgent humanitarian or essential travel may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT

All travelers shall undergo a health risk assessment.

4.1 High-Risk Travelers

High-risk travelers include Ebola contacts, symptomatic individuals, and persons from affected areas. Additional screening, testing, isolation, or observation may be required before travel authorization.

4.2 Low-Risk Travelers

Travelers without symptoms, known exposure, or recent travel to affected areas may be facilitated, subject to screening and any monitoring requirements.

5. DEPARTING TRAVELERS

Departure is subject to destination-country, transport operator, and public health requirements. Travel may be postponed if these conditions are not met.

6. MEDICAL EVACUATIONS

MEDEVAC operations may be authorized if appropriate infection-control measures, transport arrangements, and Ministry of Health approvals are in place.

7. HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS

7.1 Transit Through Rwanda

Approved humanitarian personnel may transit through Rwanda using designated routes and arrangements.

7.2 Controlled Movement

Personnel may be required to use approved accommodation, follow designated routes, and limit contact with the public.

7.3 Return Travel

Return movements shall be coordinated with the Command Post and may be subject to additional screening.

7.4 Compliance

Mission leaders shall accept protocol requirements. Non-compliance may result in revocation of travel authorization or additional public health measures.

8. HUMANITARIAN AND EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

Priority facilitation may be granted for medical supplies, laboratory materials, protective equipment, relief items, food supplies, and other critical commodities.

9. GOVERNANCE AND REVIEW

The National Ebola Preparedness and Response Command Post shall oversee implementation.

The Ministry of Health may modify, suspend, or revoke provisions and authorizations based on evolving outbreak conditions.

This protocol remains in effect from 30th May 2026 unless amended or replaced.

10. CONTACTS

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