



ASEAN BIODIASPORA VIRTUAL CENTER

DISEASE ALERT

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ASIAN NATIONS

January 30, 2025 | Issue No. 6

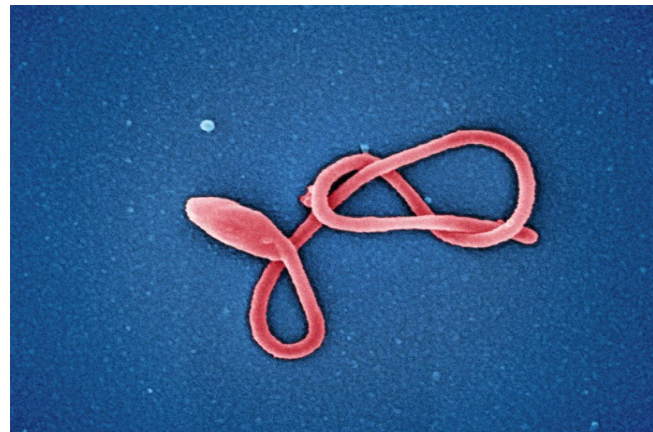
**First alert: January 30, 2025 | Unknown Illness in Democratic
Republic of the Congo**

Sub-Locations Affected

Province de l'Equateur (Boyenge)

Event Description

Health officials in the Bolomba health zone of Équateur Province, Northwest Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), announced on January 27, 2025, that there were 12 suspected cases and eight related deaths due to an unidentified condition among the indigenous inhabitants of the Boyenge area.



Source: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/ebola/tests-under-way-suspected-ebola-outbreak-dr-congo>

Epidemiological Information

- Health officials are investigating reports of suspected Ebola virus disease (EVD) cases and fatalities occurring between January 10 and 22, 2025, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Equateur province. Specifically, 12 suspected cases have been reported, with eight resulting in deaths. Samples have been sent to the National Institute of Biomedical Research in Kinshasa for further examination.
- This incident follows previous Ebola outbreaks in the region, including an outbreak in 2022 in Mbandaka, the provincial capital, which resulted in five fatalities. If confirmed, it would be the fourth Ebola outbreak in Equateur province since 2018.
- Samples from the suspected Ebola cases have been dispatched for laboratory testing to Mbandaka, the capital of Equateur province, which is located 250 kilometers away from the Bolomba health zone. This action follows the reporting of 12 suspected cases and eight deaths linked to the illness between January 10 and 22, 2025.

- While no specific demographics regarding the affected indigenous population have been disclosed, it is known that the cases under investigation are confined to an indigenous community. Given the lack of detailed information, we cannot determine the exact characteristics such as age range, educational background, or socioeconomic status of the individuals involved. Further investigations and possibly future updates might reveal more specifics about the impacted population.

Response Measure

- The Ministry of Health is working closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) to coordinate response efforts and ensure effective management of the situation.
- Authorities are conducting thorough investigations to trace contacts of confirmed cases and monitor potential exposure risks within the community.
- Efforts are being made to engage local communities in recognizing symptoms of EVD and encouraging prompt medical attention.
- Samples from the 12 suspected cases have been sent to the National Institute of Biomedical Research in Kinshasa for laboratory testing to confirm the presence of the Ebola virus.

Sources:

1. BlueDot (Event Alert), issued on January 28, 2025.
2. CIDRAP. (2025, January 29). Tests under way for suspected Ebola outbreak in DRC. Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy. <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/ebola/tests-under-way-suspected-ebola-outbreak-dr-congo>.
3. Congo Press. (2025, January 29). Équateur : Plus de 10 cas suspects d'Ebola, dont 8 décès signalés dans la zone de santé de Bolomba. <https://www.congo-press.com/sante/equateur-plus-de-10-cas-suspects-debola-dont-8-deces-signalés-dans-la-zone-de-sante-de-bolomba/>
4. Media Congo. (2025, January 29). Équateur : Plus de 10 cas suspects d'Ebola, dont 8 décès signalés dans la zone de santé de Bolomba. <https://www.mediacongo.net/article-actualite-146786-equateur-plus-de-10-cas-suspects-d-ebola-dont-8-deces-signalés-dans-la-zone-de-sante-de-bolomba.html>