

Skift.

Destinations, Africa

No Travel Restrictions Yet After Congo Ebola Outbreak

Katherine Tam, Bloomberg - May 12, 2018 3:00 pm



Skift Take

The Ebola outbreak in the Congo in Central Africa doesn't appear to be widespread at this point, but health authorities will need to provide aid quickly, and travel companies will have to monitor the situation.

— *Dennis Schaal*

The World Health Organization's Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is visiting the Democratic Republic of Congo this weekend to assess the country's needs as it faces an Ebola outbreak that was declared earlier this week, WHO said in a statement.

WHO said 34 Ebola cases have now been reported in the past five weeks, including two confirmed, 18 probable cases, and 14 suspected cases, up from the 32 cases that the organization last reported on May 10.

WHO said it doesn't at this time advise limits on travel and trade to the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is now facing its ninth Ebola outbreak since the virus was first discovered in that country in 1976. However, the organization said it is working with neighboring countries on border surveillance and preparedness for possible outbreaks.

him that “we’re ready to do all that’s needed to stop the spread of Ebola quickly.” Tedros said the organization is working with its partners to send more staff, equipment, and supplies to the affected area.

WHO STAFF WERE IN THE TEAM THAT FIRST IDENTIFIED THE OUTBREAK. I MYSELF AM ON MY WAY TO THE #DRC TOMORROW TO ASSESS THE NEEDS OF THE #EBOLA RESPONSE FIRST-HAND. WE ARE WORKING WITH OUR PARTNERS TO SEND MORE STAFF, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES TO THE AREA[HTTPS://T.CO/VLFXUJF6RU](https://t.co/vlfxujf6ru)

— TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS (@DRTEDROS) MAY 11, 2018

Tedros also confirmed on his Twitter account that the country has agreed to authorize the emergency use of the VSV vaccine. WHO said in 2015 that preliminary results showed 100 percent efficacy for the VSV-EBOV Ebola vaccine developed by Merck & Co. and NewLink Genetics.

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Tags: congo, ebola, travel restrictions, world health organization

Photo Credit: The Congo has been hit with an Ebola outbreak in May 2018. Pictured are bikes in the Congo.

