



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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PRESS RELEASE

Free Yellow Fever Vaccination to commence

KAMPALA – 09/05/2016 – Following the outbreak of Yellow Fever in some parts of the country, the Ministry of Health is to conduct a free Yellow Fever vaccination exercise in the affected districts of Masaka, Rukungiri and Kalangala.

With support from GAVI, the Ministry of Health has received Yellow Fever vaccines worth 2.1 billion shillings to kick start the exercise. During the exercise that is expected to run between May 19th and 22nd, a total of 643,765 people aged six months and above will be vaccinated against the disease.

The available vaccine is only for residents of the three affected districts because they are in a highly affected area. The public is therefore asked to give these districts priority and avoid flocking there.

The National Taskforce will be carrying out an epidemiological assessment to identify high risk districts surrounding the affected three, and evaluate the magnitude of the danger posed by the current Yellow Fever outbreak. After the assessment, any other districts found to be at risk will also be considered.

The Ministry of Health takes this opportunity to inform the public that the internationally recognized Yellow fever card is Yellow in color, printed both in English and French and bears International Health Regulations (2005). Uganda has adopted this and modified it to include the national coat of arms and the World Health Organization logo. All travellers are advised to ensure that this is the card they receive one month from today. A smaller version will be issued to residents of Masaka, Rukungiri and Kalangala. However, this version is not for international travel and whoever intends to travel is advised to switch it for an internationally accepted card at the accredited facilities.

UPDATE ON YELLOW FEVER CASES

The number of suspected Yellow Fever cases currently stands at 49. Only seven have however been confirmed to have the disease.

Currently, there are three treatment centers offering treatment to the confirmed and suspected cases. These are at; Masaka Regional Referral Hospital, Kebisoni Health Centre IV in Rukungiri district and Kalangala Health Centre IV.

A team from the Ministry is moving across the country to accredit more health facilities to offer Yellow Fever vaccination, including those at the border posts.

The Government continues to undertake surveillance in the affected and neighboring districts as a way of mitigating further spread. The National taskforce surveillance team continues to identify and follow up all alert, suspected and confirmed cases.

The Ministry of Health advises the public to uphold the following;

1. All travellers in and out of the country **MUST** be vaccinated against Yellow Fever. No traveller shall be allowed into or out of the country without proof of vaccination.
2. Always sleep under a treated mosquito net
3. Report any suspected cases to the nearest health facility.

The Ministry of Health assures the general public that all efforts are underway to contain the spread and bring an end to the outbreak.



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Director General of Health Services

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