



Republic of Rwanda  
Ministry of Health



## WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BULLETIN

# WEEK 01– 2025

(30 December 2024- 05 January 2025)

### Editorial message

Effective and efficient disease surveillance system contribute to the reduction of morbidity, disability and mortality from disease outbreaks and health emergencies.

This weekly bulletin presents the epidemiological status of the priority diseases, conditions, and events under surveillance in Rwanda. These data are useful to trigger a rapid response for rapid impact, actions and results oriented, a proactive preparedness, risk mitigation and prevention, intelligence, real-time information, and communication for decision making.

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## KEY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK 01/2025

#### Event Based Surveillance (EBS) Highlights:

- **Alerts from community: 27 alerts**

3 human illness, 23 human deaths, and 1 animal illness/death.

- **Alerts from EIOS: two alerts**

- There is cholera in Lamwo district, Northern Uganda
- Iceland confirms H5N5 avian flu in cat death

- **Indicator Based Surveillance (IBS) Highlights:**

- 225 immediate reportable diseases were notified by 89 health facilities countrywide. These include cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP), suspected cases of chicken pox, confirmed severe malaria; suspected cases of bloody diarrhea, suspected measles/rubella, suspected Mpox, suspected cases of typhoid fever, mumps, foodborne illness, VHF and snake bite.
- 68 deaths were reported through the electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (eIDSR) system. Most of deaths were perinatal deaths and deaths of children under 5 years.

- **Outbreaks and events updates in week 01**

#### Weekly updates on ongoing outbreaks:

- Ongoing outbreak:

- Mpox

- New outbreak:

Foodborne illness outbreak occurred in Rulindo district, Kinihira sector

- **Completeness and timeliness**

In Epi Week 01, the overall completeness and timeliness of surveillance data reporting in Rwanda was 99% and 94% respectively.

## WEEKLY UPDATES ON EVENT BASED SURVEILLANCE (EBS) EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK 01

**Description:** *Event Based Surveillance (EBS) is a type of public health surveillance system that detects and reports unusual health events or disease outbreaks in a timely manner. The system is designed to detect signals of potential public health threats and allow a rapid response to prevent or control the spread of diseases. RBC is implementing EBS through PHS&EPR Division.*

*Currently, an electronic Community Event Based Surveillance System (eCBS) and Epidemic Intelligence from Open Source (EIOS) are being used to detect and report events of public health importance from the community and media. The process for establishment of other types of EBS is still being on going.*

- **Alerts from community: 27 alerts**

3 human illness reported by 3 villages, 23 human deaths reported in 22 villages, and 1 animal illness/death reported in 1 village.

- **Alerts from EIOS: two alerts**

- **There is cholera in Lamwo district, Northern Uganda**

One person has been confirmed dead while 30 others have been admitted following an outbreak of Cholera in Lamwo District. The outbreak has been reported in five parishes in Agoro Sub-county. The district health officer attributed the outbreak to poor sanitation and hygiene practices, which have led to the contamination of water sources.

- **Iceland confirms H5N5 avian flu in cat death**

Officials said the 10-week-old kitten died on December 22, shortly after two cats from the same litter died but were not tested. Other littermates had left the home before the other cats were sick and remain asymptomatic. The kittens are from Ísafjörður in the Westfjords region of northwest Iceland, but the one diagnosed as having H5N5 had arrived in Reykjavík, the country's capital.

## WEEKLY UPDATES ON INDICATOR BASED SURVEILLANCE (IBS)

**Description:** *Rwanda had implemented Indicator Based Surveillance according to the IDSR guidelines 3rd edition where approximately 45 priority diseases, health conditions and public health events are being monitored and reported from health facilities countrywide on a regular basis. Diseases that are prone to outbreaks are being reported immediately within 24 hours after detection while diseases that are considered as endemic are reported on weekly basis every Monday before midday.*

### A. IMMEDIATE REPORTABLE DISEASES – EPI WEEK 1

During this Epi week, 225 cases of immediate reportable diseases were notified by 89 health facilities:

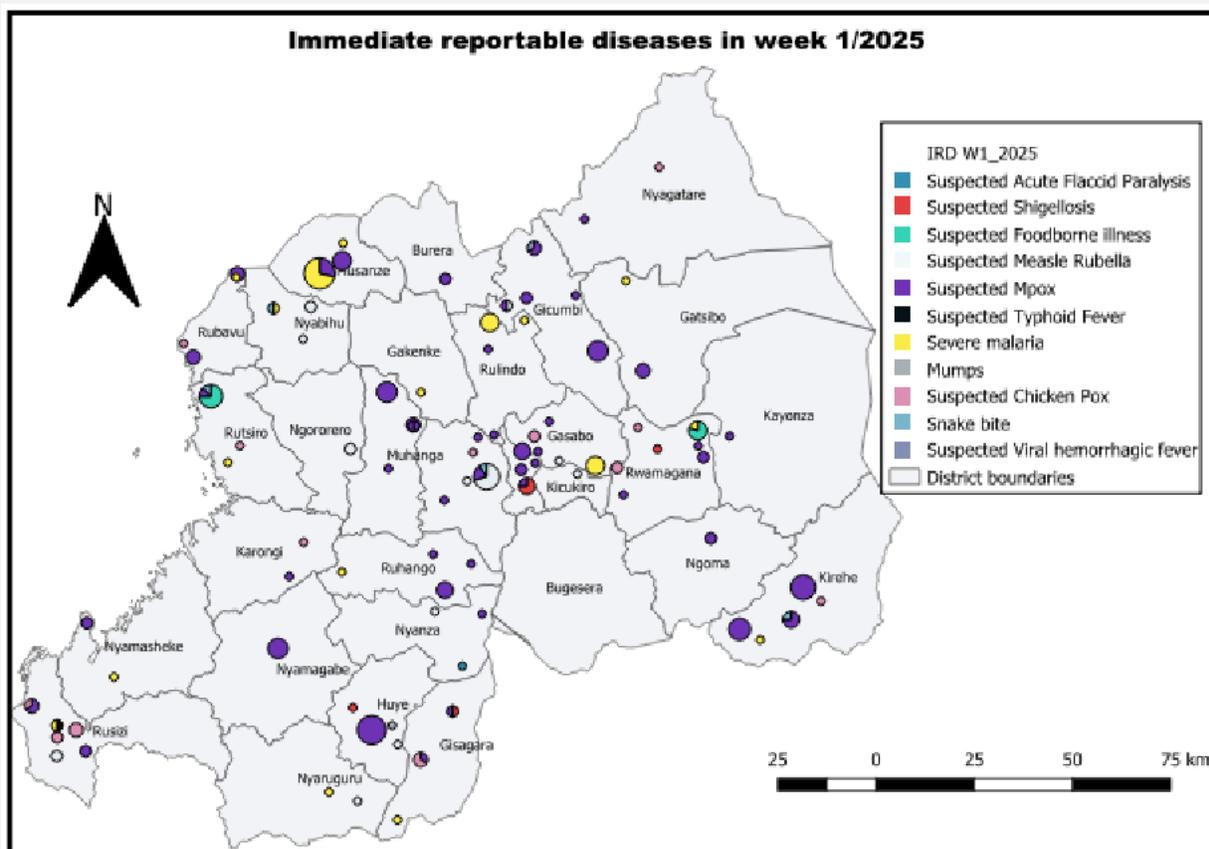
- 6 suspected cases of bloody diarrhea (Shigellosis) were reported by 4 health facilities. The samples were taken and sent to NRL.
- 19 cases of chicken pox(varicella) were reported by 13 health facilities.
- 22 suspected cases of Measles/Rubella were reported by 13 HCs. Samples were taken and sent to NRL.
- 34 cases of confirmed severe malaria were reported by 17 health facilities.

- 1 case of acute flaccid paralysis were reported by 1 health facility, the sample was taken and sent to NRL for transportation to UVRI laboratory.
- 126 suspected cases of Mpox were reported by 48 health facilities.
- 4 cases of snake bites were reported by 4 health facilities.
- 1 case of mumps was reported by 1 health facility.
- 1 suspected case of typhoid fever was reported by 1 health facility, the sample was taken and sent to NRL.
- 6 cases of foodborne illness were reported by 1health facility.
- 1 case of suspected VHF was reported by 1health facility.

**Notes:**

- ✓ The hospitals with surpassed thresholds are recommended to conduct the investigations and implement control measures accordingly

**Geographical distribution of immediate reportable disease cases notified during the epi week 1/2025**



*Distribution of immediate reportable diseases in Epi week 1*

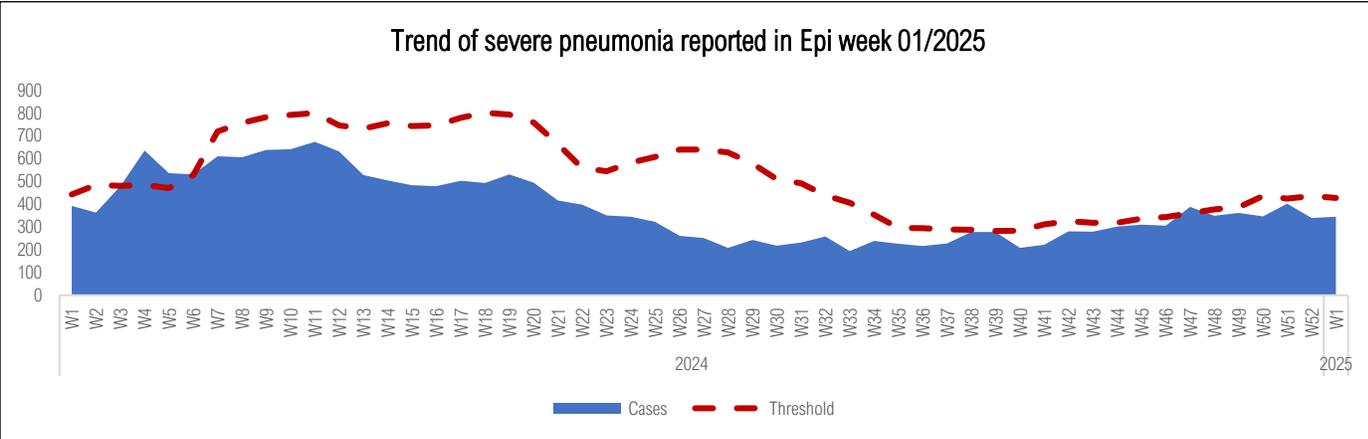
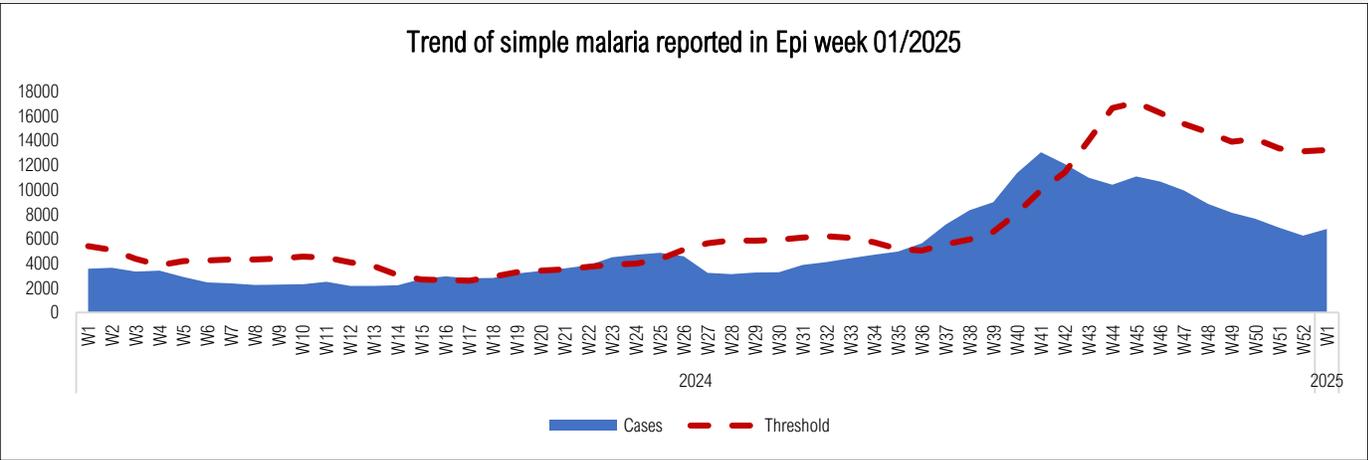
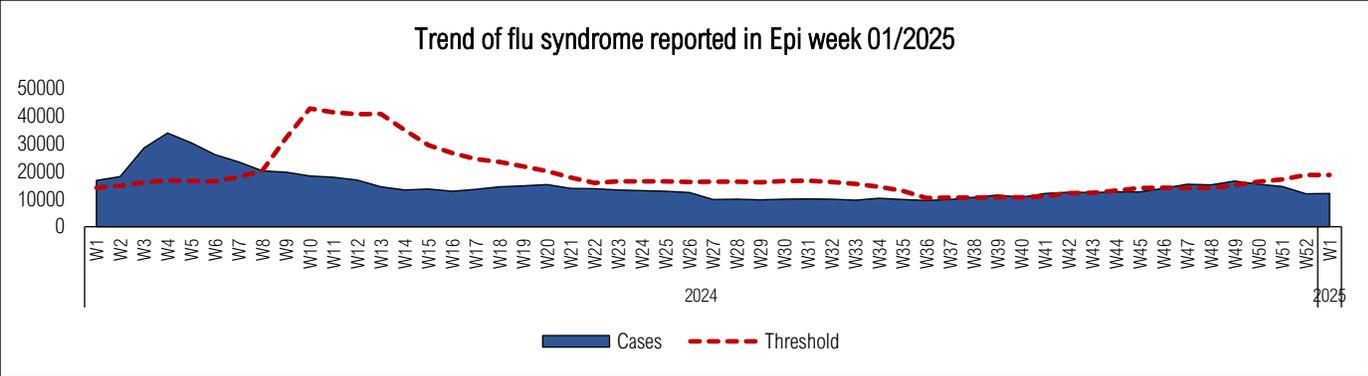
**B. WEEKLY REPORTABLE DISEASES – EPI WEEK 01**

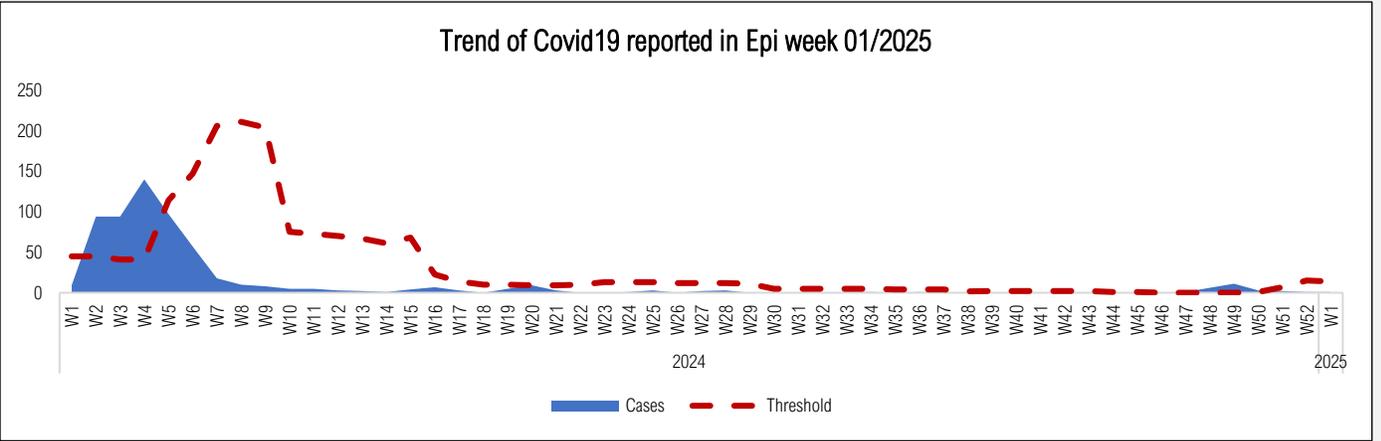
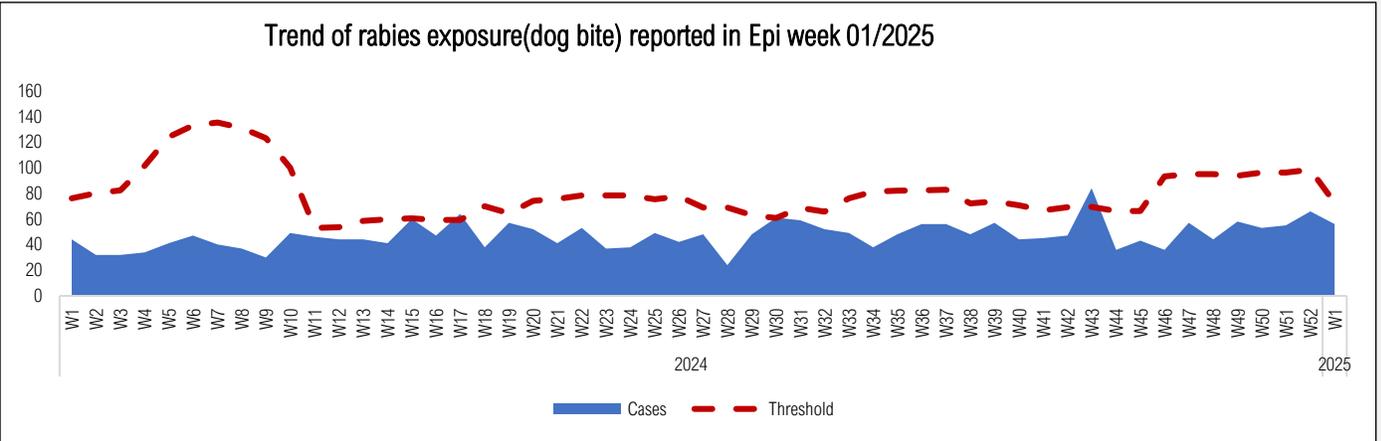
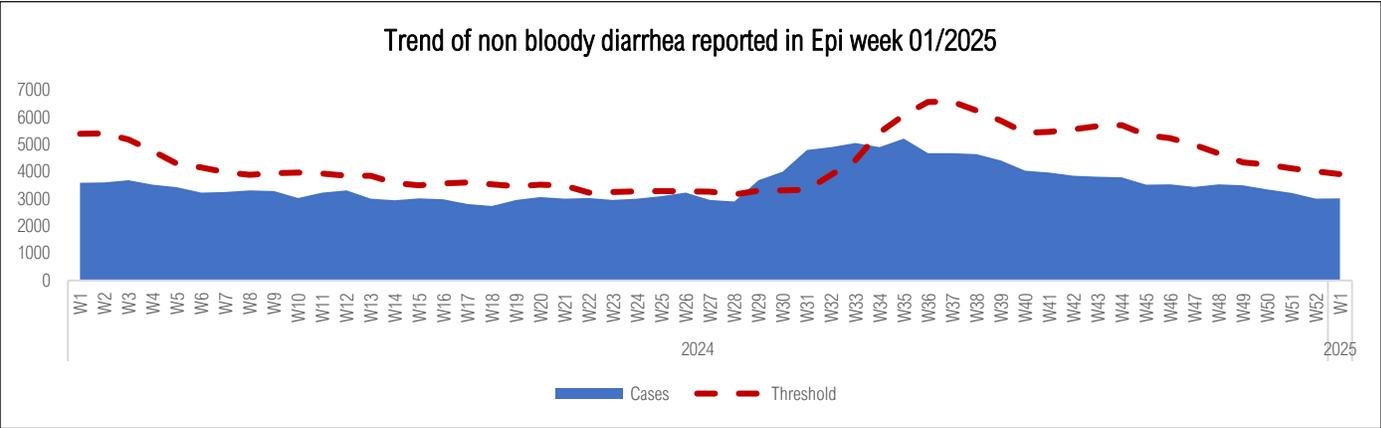
**Description:** *In Rwanda, after the adaptation of the IDSR guidelines 3rd edition, eight diseases events are being reported and analyzed on a weekly basis. These include flu syndrome, simple malaria, severe pneumonia for under 5 years, non-bloody diarrhea for under 5 years, COVID-19, dog bites, brucellosis, and trypanosomiasis.*

The monitoring trends of these weekly reportable diseases or health events helps to detect an unusual increase early.

In Epi Week 1, a thorough analysis was conducted, comparing the number of reported cases of the eight diseases monitored on a weekly basis to their respective epidemic thresholds. The results of the analysis revealed that no disease surpassed the epidemic thresholds.

The figures below show the weekly reportable diseases trends:

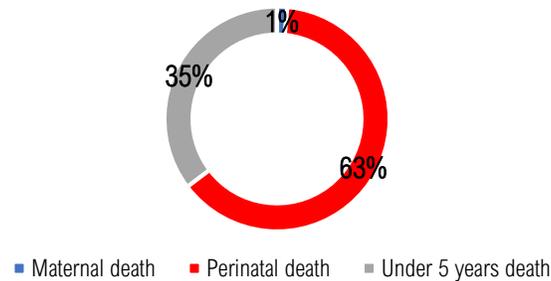




**C. DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED DEATHS IN eIDSR – EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK 01**

As summarized in the Pie Chart below, a total number of 68 deaths were reported through the electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (eIDSR) system. Among these deaths, 43(63%) were perinatal deaths, 24(35%) were the deaths of children under 5 years old, and 1(1%) maternal death.

### Type of deaths reported in week 1/2025

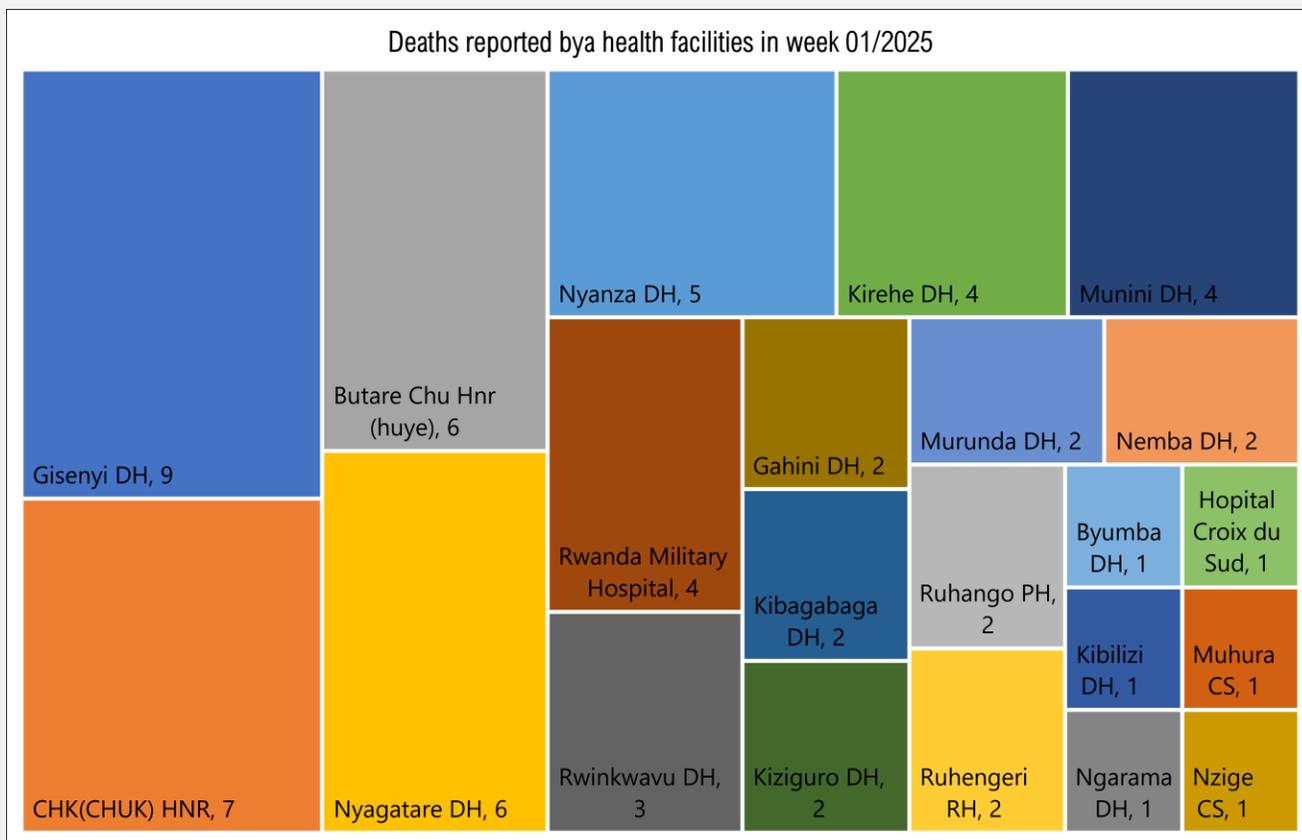


#### *Cause of deaths declared in epi week 01*

68 deaths were reported from various catchment areas as follow:

- A total of 9 deaths were reported by Gisenyi DH (5perinatal deaths and 4under 5 years deaths).
- A total of 7 deaths were reported by CHUK (2perinatal deaths and 5under 5 years deaths)
- A total of 6 deaths were reported respectively by CHUB (6perinatal deaths) and Nyagatare DH (6under 5 years deaths)
- A total of 5 deaths were reported by Nyanza DH (4 perinatal deaths and 1 under 5 years death)
- A total of 4 deaths were reported respectively by Kirehe DH (1perinatal death and 3 under 5 years death); Munini DH (3perinatal deathS and 1under 5 years death), Rwanda Military Hospital (1maternal death, 2 perinatal deaths and 1 under 5 years death)
- A total of 3 deaths were reported by Rwinkwavu DH (3 perinatal deaths).
- A total of 2 deaths were reported respectively by Gahini DH, Kibagabaga DH, Kiziguro DH, Ruhango PH, Ruhengeri RH (each one reported perinatal deaths);Murunda DH, Nemba DH (each one reported 1perinatal death and 1under 5 years death)
- 1death was reported respectively by Byumba DH, Hopital Croix du Sud, Kibilizi DH, Muhura HC in Kiziguro DH, Nzige HC in Rwamagana PH (each reported one perinatal death); while Ngarama DH reported 1 under-five death).

Distribution of deaths by health facilities:

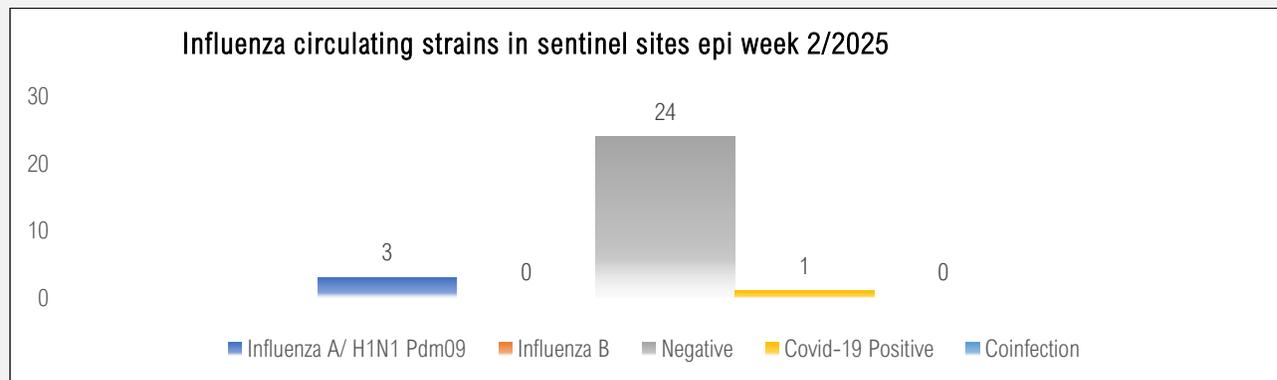


Distribution of deaths by health facilities in Epi week 01

D. SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE

Influenza circulating strains in sites, week1

In the epidemiological Week 1, a total of 62 samples were collected from sentinel site sites. (33) from GIHUNDWE RH, (12) KIBUNGO RH, (9) RUHENGELI RH, (0) from Kibagabaga and (8) from CHUB. Out of the 62 samples received and tested by the National Reference Laboratory (NRL), 52 tested negative for all influenza subtypes, 10 tested positive for seasonal influenza (10 on seasonal influenza type A, H1N1 Pdm09 subtype & 0 on seasonal influenza type B) with 0 co-infection cases, and 3 positive cases for COVID-19.



## OUTBREAK AND EVENT UPDATES IN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK 01

### 1. Ongoing Mpox outbreak in Rwanda

Rwanda confirmed its first two cases of Mpox on July 24, 2024. The current situation, as of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025 is as following:

- Cumulative suspected cases: 5744
- New suspected cases: 126
- Total confirmed cases: 87
- New confirmed cases: 5
- Cases currently under follow-up: 22
- Total discharged cases: 65
- New discharged cases: 1

#### Actions taken

In response to the Mpox outbreak, several key interventions are being implemented at central and district levels, where Incident Management System for Mpox is activated to enhance preparedness and strengthen response efforts. Key interventions are being implemented, including enhanced surveillance, case management, ring vaccination, and public awareness campaigns.

### 2. New outbreak

#### Foodborne illness occurred in Rulindo district

Confirmed cases	0	Date reported:	December 20, 2024	Risk assessment	Low
Suspected cases	6	Source:	eIDSR		
Death(s)	0	District/HFs:	Kinihira PH		
Total cases	6	Geoscope:	Low		

#### Description

At 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 Kinihira PH received 6 patients; including 5 from Base sector, Cyohoha cell, Mushongi village and 1 from Kinihira sector, Marembo cell, Cyogo village. They developed abdominal pain, vomiting and headache after drinking sorghum brew (ubushera). All patients were treated, improved and discharged.

#### Actions taken

- Case management
- Reporting of cases in e-IDSR

## eIDSR REPORTS COMPLETENESS & TIMELINESS EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK 01

*In Rwanda, eIDSR reports completeness and timeliness are scored as follow:*

- ✚ *Greater or equal to 80%: High,*
- ✚ *Between 60% and 79%: Moderate,*
- ✚ *Less than 60%: Low.*



In the Epi Week 01, the overall completeness and timeliness of disease surveillance data reporting in Rwanda, was scored to 99% and 94%, respectively. Almost all hospitals had a high completeness score above 80%, except one hospital that had a moderate score: Rwamagana PH and CARAES Ndera that had a low score. For the timeliness, almost all hospitals had a high completeness score above 80%, except four hospitals that had the moderate score: Rwamagana PH, Ruhengeri RH, Muhororo DH, Nyarugenge DH, and two hospitals that had a low timeliness score: King Faisal Hospital and CARAES Ndera.

**Notes:** The health facility that did not have a high score for the completeness and timeliness had been recommended to improve the reporting by submitting weekly surveillance reports not later than Monday before 12:00.

Details on completeness and timeliness for all health facilities are shown in the figures below.

Hospital catchment area	Completeness	Hospital catchment area	Timeliness
Nyagatare	93	Nyagatare	93
Gatunda	89	Gatunda	89
Ngarama	88	Ngarama	88
Kiziguro	100	Kiziguro	100
Gahini	100	Gahini	100
Rwinkwavu	100	Rwinkwavu	90
Kibungo	100	Kibungo	100
Kirehe	93	Kirehe	85
Rwamagana	69	Rwamagana	69
Nyamata	100	Nyamata	100
Kinihira	89	Kinihira	89
Rutongo	100	Rutongo	100
Gatonde	100	Gatonde	100
Butaro	95	Butaro	90
Ruli	100	Ruli	100
Nemba	90	Nemba	90
Ruhengeri	89	Ruhengeri	78
Byumba	100	Byumba	100
CHUB	100	CHUB	100
Kabutare	100	Kabutare	100
Kabgayi	100	Kabgayi	100
Kibilizi	100	Kibilizi	100
Gakoma	100	Gakoma	100
Gitwe	100	Gitwe	100
Ruhango	100	Ruhango	100
Remera Rukoma	100	Remera Rukoma	100
Nyanza	100	Nyanza	100
Kigeme	100	Kigeme	85
Kaduha	100	Kaduha	100
Munini	100	Munini	100
Bushenge	100	Bushenge	100
Kibogora	100	Kibogora	100
Kibuye	100	Kibuye	100
Kirinda	100	Kirinda	100
Mugonero	100	Mugonero	100
Shyira	100	Shyira	94
Muhororo	100	Muhororo	70
Kabaya	100	Kabaya	100
Gihundwe	100	Gihundwe	100
Mibilizi	100	Mibilizi	100
Gisenyi	100	Gisenyi	100
Murunda	100	Murunda	100
CHUK	100	CHUK	100
Nyarugenge	89	Nyarugenge	78
Muhima	100	Muhima	100
RMH	100	RMH	100
Masaka	100	Masaka	100
Kigababaga	95	Kigababaga	90
Kacyiru	100	Kacyiru	100
KFH	100	KFH	0
Caraes Ndera	0	Caraes Ndera	0
Nyabikenke	100	Nyabikenke	100
Rwanda	99	Rwanda	94