



# WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BULLETIN WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BULLETIN

(10-16 July 2023)

#### 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 28

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

- During the epidemiological week 28, four alerts were notified through the electronic Community Event Based Surveillance System (eCBS) including 4 human deaths (3 deaths in Rusizi district, 1 death in Bugesera district).
- o Three alerts were identified through the Epidemic Intelligence from Open Source (EIOS).

#### Indicator Based Surveillance (IBS) Highlights:

- 335 immediate reportable diseases were notified by health facilities countrywide. They included cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP), foodborne illness, mumps, severe malaria; bloody diarrhea, measles/rubella, cholera and chicken pox.
- 8 weekly reportable diseases and health events are being reported on weekly basis, they include among others flu syndrome, simple malaria, severe pneumonia for under 5 years, non-bloody diarrhea for under 5 years, COVID-19, dog bites, brucellosis, and trypanosomiasis. A thorough analysis conducted for Epi Week 28 revealed that, no disease crossed the epidemic thresholds.
- A total of 66 deaths were reported through the electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (eIDSR) system. The majority of deaths were classified as perinatal and deaths of children under the age of 5.

### Ongoing outbreaks

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In the Epi Week 28, there was three outbreaks in Rwanda:

- Ongoing Measles outbreak in Kirehe District
- Ongoing Cholera outbreak in Rubavu district
- o Foodborne illness occurred in Bweyeye HC, Rusizi district

#### Completeness and timeliness

In Epi Week 28, the overall completeness and timeliness of surveillance data reporting in Rwanda was 99% and 97%, respectively.

## WEEKLY UPDATES ON EVENT BASED SURVEILLANCE (EBS) EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK 28

**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.

#### COMMUNITY EVENT BASED SURVEILLANCE

During the Epi week 28, four alerts were received from community:

#### Four Human Deaths:

- 1. A person who was 63-years-old, Male from Kaboshya village, Rurenge cell, Mwogo sector, Bugesera district passed away on 15/07/2023. He had an unknown illness which might be the possible cause of death.
- 2. A child who was 3-years-old, Male from Uwinzovu village, Rasano cell, Bweyeye sector, Rusizi district passed away on 11/07/2023. He developed abdominal pain, and loss of weight and was unable to eat. The parents consulted Bweyeye HC on 10/07/2023, the following day the child passed away.
- 3. A person who was 78-years-old, Male from Cyunyu village, Burunga cell, Gihundwe sector, Rusizi District, passed away on 11/07/2023, he had a chronic respiratory illness.
- 4. A person who was 56-years-old, Male from Nyindarama village, Kagara cell, Gihundwe sector, Rusizi District, passed away on 10/07/2023. He was a tuberculosis patient.

#### **MEDIA SCAN**

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During the Epi week 28, three alerts were received through Epidemic Intelligence from Open Source (EIOS):

1. Mysterious Disease Strikes Egyptian Village: Over 200 Infected, Authorities Investigating:

A puzzling and concerning outbreak have struck the Egyptian village of Nag Sanad, located in Al-Aliqat, part of the QoS city in the Qena governorate, south of Cairo. Approximately 200 people have fallen victim to this strange disease, exhibiting a range of distressing symptoms. Residents report experiencing high fevers, broken bones, vomiting, dizziness, and severe headaches that persist for about a week. Speculations suggest that the disease might be linked to mosquitoes, insects, or even water contamination, as the symptoms seem to spread easily among individuals.



In response to the alarming situation, Egyptian authorities have taken swift action to confront the outbreak in Nag Sanad village. Citizens have undergone sample testing to determine the nature of the infection, while health officials from the governorate's Health Directorate have carried out extensive insect and mosquito spraying operations to disinfect the entire area. Additionally, authorities have collected samples of the village's drinking water to ensure its safety.

As the situation unfolds, a medical delegation has been dispatched to the village to provide medical care and treatment for the affected individuals. The delegation's priority is to understand the mysterious disease, identify its specific type, and pinpoint the root causes behind its rapid spread. Prompt and effective measures are being implemented to contain the outbreak and protect the health and well-being of the villagers. https://bnn.network/world/egypt/mysterious-disease-strikes-egyptian-village-over-200-infected-authorities-investigating/

#### 2. Germany sounds E. coli and HUS alert after travel to Egypt

German public health officials have warned of a spike in cases of E. coli among travelers to Egypt. Experts from the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) said they had also seen a rise in connected cases of hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS). HUS is a severe complication associated with E. coli infections that causes kidney failure. Since the beginning of 2023, 31 cases of E. coli and 10 of HUS in people who were likely infected while on holiday in Egypt have been reported.

A large proportion of patients – 12 E. coli cases and six HUS cases – were recorded in May and June. They had stayed in different hotels, mainly in Hurghada, which is also the most frequent travel spot in the country. RKI officials warned of an expectation of more cases and said when people come back from Egypt with diarrhea,

stool samples should be tested for E. coli and attention should be paid to the symptoms of HUS, especially in young children. Clinical laboratories were asked to send an isolate or a stool swab of diagnosed E. coli cases in people with a history of travel to Egypt to the National Reference Center for Salmonella and other bacterial pathogens at the RKI for typing. Isolates or stool samples from HUS cases can also be sent to the laboratory for HUS at the University Hospital Münster.

https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2023/07/germany-sounds-e-coli-and-hus-alert-after-travel-to-egypt/

#### 3. Malawi cholera update

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In a cholera update, the Malawi Ministry of Health reported one additional confirmed case in Nsanje. The total confirmed cases are 58,941 since the first case was reported in March 2023. The total deaths due to cholera remains at 1,766 (3% CFR). All 29 health districts in the country have reported cases and 24 districts have controlled the outbreak. As they are batting the cholera outbreak, people are advised to take care of what they eat or drink. Avoid buying food from streets stands, avoid cold meat, salad vegetables and other uncooked food restaurants and eat fruits which can be peeled such oranges bananas. https://outbreaknewstoday.com/malawi-cholera-update-58191/

### WEEKLY UPDATES ON INDICATOR BASED SURVEILLANCE (IBS) EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK 28

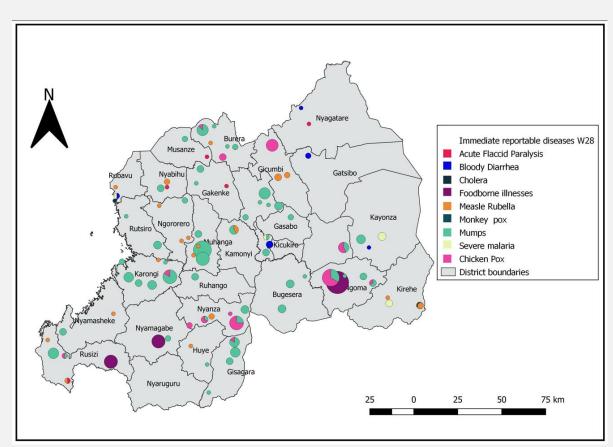
**Description:** Rwanda has been implemented Indicator Based Surveillance according to the IDSR 3rd guidelines where approximately 45 priority diseases, health conditions and public health events are being monitored and reported from health facilities countrywide on a regular basis. Diseases that are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

#### A. IMMEDIATE REPORTABLE DISEASES — EPI WEEK 28

During Epi week 28; 335 cases of immediate reportable diseases were notified. They include 182 cases of mumps, 48 cases of chicken pox, 53 cases of foodborne illness, 28 suspect cases of measles/rubella, 9 confirmed cases of severe malaria, 8 suspected cases of bloody diarrhea, 5 suspected cases of acute flaccid paralysis, 1 suspected case of monkey pox and 1 case of cholera confirmed by RDT. (See figure below).

#### Notes:

- o For the diseases requiring laboratory confirmation, the samples were collected and sent to the National Reference Laboratory for testing, except for some diseases whose samples were not sent, including bloody diarrhea. For 35 samples of measles/rubella sent to NRL in the previous week, 4 were tested positive. For the suspected case of monkey pox, the sample was sent to NRL and was tested negative.
- All confirmed cases and suspected cases have been managed at the health facility level. The health facilities are recommended to collect samples and send them to NRL for confirmation as required.

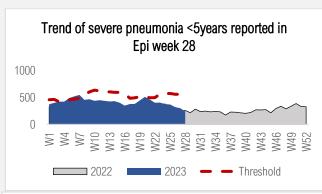


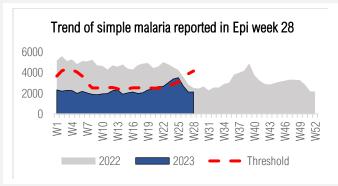
Distribution of immediate reportable diseases in Epi week 28

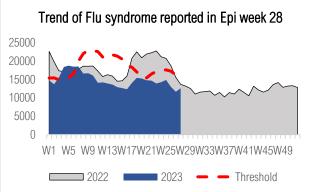
#### WEEKLY REPORTABLE DISEASES – EPI WEEK 28

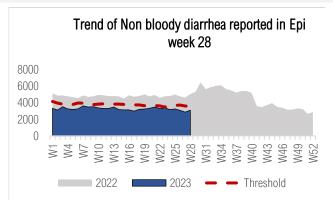
**Description:** In Rwanda, after the adaptation of the IDSR 3rd edition, eight diseases & events are being reported and analyzed on a weekly basis. These include flu syndrome, simple malaria, severe pneumonia for under 5 years, non-bloody diarrhea for under 5 years, COVID-19, dog bites, brucellosis, and trypanosomiasis. The monitoring trends of these weekly reportable diseases or health events helps to detect an unusual increase early.

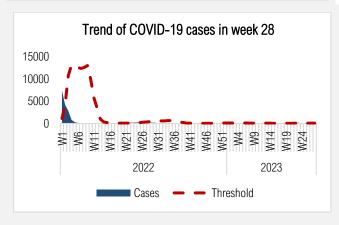
In Epi Week 28, a thorough analysis was conducted, comparing the number of reported cases of the eight diseases monitored on a weekly basis to their respective epidemic thresholds. The results of the analysis revealed that no weekly reportable disease, crossed the epidemic thresholds.

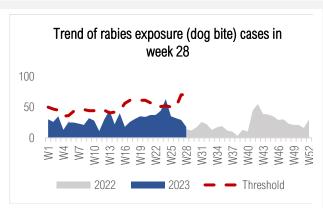






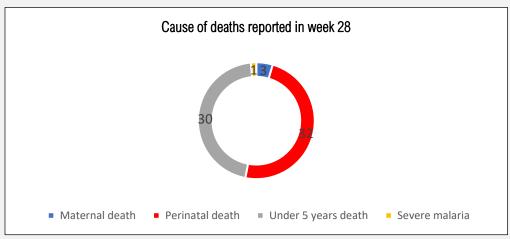






#### B. DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED DEATHS IN eIDSR – EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK 28

In Epi week 28, as summarized in the Pie Chart below, a total number of 66 deaths were reported through the electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (eIDSR) system. Among these deaths, 32 (48%) were classified as perinatal, 30 (45%) are deaths of children under 5 years old, 3 (5%) maternal deaths and 1 death due to severe malaria.

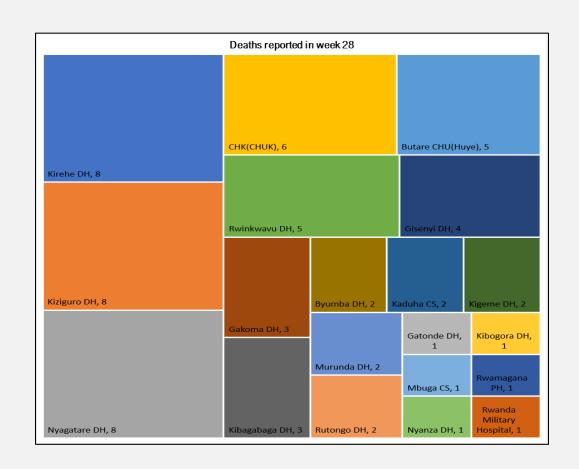


Cause of deaths declared in epi week 28

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Deaths were reported from various catchment areas as follow:

- 8 deaths were reported respectively in Kirehe DH, Kiziguro DH and Nyagatare DH
- 6 deaths were reported in CHUKigali.
- 5 deaths were reported respectively in CHUButare and Rwinkwavu DH
- 4 deaths were reported in Gisenyi DH
- 3 deaths were reported respectively in Kibagabaga DH and Gakoma DH
- 2 deaths were reported respectively by Byumba DH, Kaduha DH, Kigeme DH, Murunda DH, Rutongo DH
- 1 death was reported respectively in Gatonde DH, Rwamagana PH, Kibogora DH, Rwanda Military hospital and Mbuga (Kigeme DH).



# OUTBREAK AND EVENT UPDATES EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK 28

#### 1. MEASLES ONGOING OUTBREAK

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Confirmed cases	24	Date reported:	February 27, 2023	Risk assessment	Low
Epi link cases	69	Source:	NRL, eIDSR		
Death(s)	0	District/HFs:	Kirehe/Mahama Refugee Camp		
Total cases	93	Geoscope:	Low		

**Outbreak description:** The measles outbreak is still ongoing in Kirehe district since 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023. During Epi Week 28; 4 additional confirmed cases were found in Mahama Refugee camp, which make it a total of 24 confirmed cases and 69 cases confirmed by epidemiological link.

#### Ongoing interventions

- Continuous active cases search
- Case management (treatment, isolation)
- Vaccination

#### 2. CHOLERA ONGOING OUTBREAK IN RUBAVU DISTRICT

Confirmed cases	40	Date reported:	June 14, 2023	Risk assessment	Low
Suspected cases	0	Source:	eIDSR		
Death(s)	1	District/HFs:	Rubavu/ Kigufi HC,		
Total cases	40	Geoscope:	Low		

#### Outbreak description:

On June 13, 2023, Kigufi health center, in Rubavu district recorded 2 suspected cases of cholera. This was followed by notification of other 2 cases on 14th and 15th June 2023, respectively. Six stool samples were taken for culture after being all tested positive by pre-culture rapid test. Of them, three were tested positive for Vibrio Cholerae/ Inaba on June 18, 2023.

As of 20<sup>th</sup> July, 40 cases meeting cholera case definition have been recorded with 3 confirmed by stool culture and 37 confirmed by RDTs. For the outcome of patients, 37 were cured, 1 died (a female aged of 14) and 2 cases are still hospitalized in Kigufi HC. The source of infection was the use of unsafe water, poor hygiene and sanitation.

#### Interventions:

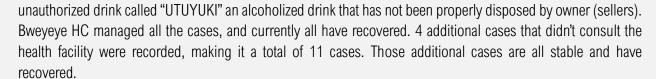
- From 21st to 25th June 2023, PHS&EPR Division in collaboration with Gisenyi DH conducted a field investigation.
- Case management
- Enhance risk communication and community engagement on prevention and control measures
- Reinforce community awareness on IPC, hygiene and sanitation and wash strategies toward cholera prevention
- o Improve the reporting mechanisms and the effective communication and provide interim reports (update on daily basis including the line list)
- Reinforce community surveillance for early detection and active search of new cases

#### 3. FOODBORNE ILLNESS IN RUSIZI DISTRICT

Confirmed cases	0	Date reported:	July 10, 2023	Risk assessment	Low
Suspected cases	11	Source:	elDSR		
Death(s)	0	District/HFs:	Rusizi/ Bweyeye C, Gihundwe DH,		
Total cases	11	Geoscope:	Low		

Outbreak description: On 10th July 2023, 7 children from Bweyeye Sector Cyiyabo cell, Matyazo village were admitted at Bweyeye HC, complaining headache, vomiting, abdominal pain and dizziness after consuming an







#### Interventions:



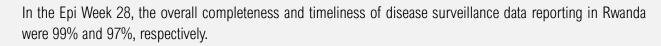




### eIDSR REPORTS COMPLETENESS & TIMELINESS **EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK 28**

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.



With regards to completeness of surveillance reports, almost all hospitals had the high completeness (>80%), except Bushenge Provincial Hospital that had a moderate score (75%)

The overall timeliness score was 97%. almost all hospitals had the high timeliness (>80%), except Bushenge Provincial Hospital that had a moderate score

Notes: There was an improvement of completeness and timeliness. However, for an effective surveillance and early detection of outbreaks, one health facility that had not a high score had been recommended to improve the reporting through the submission of all reports not later than Monday before 12:00.

Details, on completeness and timeliness for all health facilities are showed in the figure below.



