



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Health



WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BULLETIN

WEEK **7** 09-15 February 2026





Editorial message

Effective and efficient disease surveillance systems 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 public-health events under surveillance in Rwanda. These data aim 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.

KEY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS



Event Based Surveillance (EBS) Highlights:



Alerts from Impuruza system: **12 alerts**



10 human deaths



2 dog bites

Alerts from EIOS: **7 alerts**

Epstein-Barr Virus and Multiple Sclerosis

Highly Contagious COVID-19 Variant Detected

Influenza A (H3N2) Increase

Kala-azar (Visceral Leishmaniasis) Surge

China: during the reporting period of February 1 to February 7, 2026, the Centre for Health Protection reported 3 confirmed human cases of avian influenza

Somalia: According to the WHO EMR Polio Bulletin for the week ending February 8, the country reported 1 new circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) case in 2026 during the reporting week.

Spain: According to a media report on February 10, public health authorities have declared a workplace associated measles outbreak





Indicator Based Surveillance (IBS) Highlights:



179 cases of immediate reportable diseases were notified by **82** health facilities nationwide. These included cases of chicken pox, severe malaria, suspected shigellosis, suspected measles/rubella, suspected Mpox, suspected typhoid fever, suspected VHF, suspected foodborne illnesses, suspected RVF, suspected human influenza, suspected cholera, suspected SARI, suspected cholera, acute flaccid paralysis, mumps, and snake bites.



83 deaths were reported by **29** health facilities through the electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (eIDSR) system. Most deaths were perinatal deaths and deaths of children under 5 years.



Outbreaks and events updates in week 7



Weekly updates on ongoing outbreaks:

Ongoing outbreaks:

-  Mpox outbreak
-  Measles outbreak in Rubavu district
-  Cholera outbreak in Rusizi and Nyamasheke districts

New outbreak:

-  None



Completeness and timeliness



In Epi Week 7, the overall completeness and timeliness of surveillance data reporting in Rwanda was 99% and 98% respectively.



Weekly updates on Event Based Surveillance (EBS)

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 the PHS&EPR Division.

Currently, an electronic Community Event-Based Surveillance System (eCBS), Hotline 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 the establishment of other types of EBS is still ongoing.

Alerts from Impuruza system: 12 signals were notified, all were from the community, none from health facilities. They included **10 human deaths** and **2 dog bites**.

Alerts from EIOS: 7 alerts

1. Epstein-Barr Virus and Multiple Sclerosis

US United States

New research from UC San Francisco provides further evidence linking Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) to multiple sclerosis (MS). The study identified an abnormal accumulation of EBV-targeting CD8+ "killer" T cells in the cerebrospinal fluid of MS patients, suggesting EBV may trigger immune-mediated damage in the central nervous system. These findings strengthen ongoing research into EBV-targeted therapies for MS and other autoimmune diseases.

<https://www.technologynetworks.com/tn/news/epstein-barr-virus-may-trigger-killer-t-cells-in-multiple-sclerosis-409416>

2. Highly Contagious COVID-19 Variant Detected

Thailand has confirmed the presence of a highly contagious UK (British) SARS-CoV-2 variant, detected in samples collected from entertainment venues in Bangkok. Genetic analysis indicates the strain spreads approximately 1.7 times faster and carries a higher viral load, raising concerns over rapid transmission in crowded social settings.

<https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/highly-contagious-uk-strain-of-covid-virus-arrives-in-thailand>

3. Influenza A (H3N2) Increase

Argentina has reported increased circulation of Influenza A (H3N2), subclade K, including a confirmed death in Mendoza Province. The strain has spread rapidly across more than 34 countries since mid-2025. Health authorities emphasize vaccination, early healthcare-seeking among high-risk groups, and adherence to non-pharmaceutical prevention measures.

<https://www.launion.digital/sociedad/gripe-h3n2-claves-frenar-contagio-n229841>

4. Kala-azar (Visceral Leishmaniasis) Surge

Kenya has reported a sharp increase in kala-azar (visceral leishmaniasis) cases, rising from 1,575 in 2024 to 3,577 in 2025. The disease is expanding into previously unaffected regions, driven by climate change, population movement, and limited diagnostic and treatment capacity. East Africa continues to account for more than two-thirds of global cases.

<https://gphin.canada.ca/cepr/showarticle.jsp?docId=1020930546>

5. China: According to the Avian Influenza

Report published on February 10, 2026, during the reporting period of February 1 to February 7, 2026, the Centre for Health Protection reported 3 confirmed human cases of avian influenza in China. These included 2 cases of avian influenza A(H9N2), involving a 73-year-old woman in Guangdong Province with illness onset on January 17, 2026, and a 2-year-old boy in Hunan Province with onset on December 29, 2025. There was also 1 case of avian influenza A(H10N3) in a 34-year-old man from Guangdong Province with onset on December 29, 2025.

<http://www.flu.org.cn/en/news-22375.html>, CHP

https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/2026_avian_influenza_report_vol22_wk06.pdf

Weekly updates on Event Based Surveillance (EBS)

6. Somalia (Update): According to the WHO EMR Polio Bulletin for the week ending

February 8, the country reported 1 new circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) case in 2026 during the reporting week. The case was identified in Lower Juba Province (Kismayo District), with a date of onset of January 3. In addition, 2 new cVDPV2-positive environmental samples from Somalia were reported, with 1 detected in 2025 and the other in 2026.

(Relief Web:

<https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/who-emr-polio-bulletin-issue-no1427-week-05-ending-08022026>)

7. Spain: According to a media report on February 10, public health authorities have declared a workplace associated measles outbreak

involving adults employed by 2 companies in the same building in Alicante. Of the 28 suspected cases, 16 have been confirmed and 9 remain under investigation. Officials have implemented control measures, including isolating confirmed and suspected cases and vaccinating all identified contacts, to limit further transmission.

<https://www.eleconomista.es/salud-bienestar/enfermedades/noticias/13769360/02/26/nuevo-brote-de-sarampion-en-alicante-puedo-contagiarme-si-esto-y-vacunado.html>)



WEEKLY UPDATES ON EVENT-BASED SURVEILLANCE (EBS)

Description: Rwanda had implemented Indicator-Based Surveillance according to the IDSR guidelines 3rd edition where 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 reported immediately within 24 hours after detection, while diseases that are considered endemic are reported on a weekly basis every Monday before midday.

A. IMMEDIATE REPORTABLE DISEASES - EPI WEEK 7

During this Epi week,

179 cases of immediate reportable diseases were notified by 82 health facilities:



5 cases of chicken pox (varicella) were reported by 3 health facilities.



39 suspected cases of Measles /Rubella were reported by 28 health facilities; the samples were taken and sent to NRL.



41 cases of severe malaria were reported by 25 health facilities.



21 suspected cases of Mpox were reported by 10 health facilities; the samples were tested, they were negative.



8 cases of suspected foodborne illnesses were reported by 2 health facilities



8 snake bites cases were reported by 4 health facilities.



6 suspected cases of typhoid fever were reported by 4 health facilities; the samples were taken and sent in laboratory.



5 cases of acute flaccid paralysis were reported by 5 health facilities



13 cases of mumps were reported by 3 health facilities



3 suspected cases of human influenza were reported by 2 health facilities; the samples were taken and tested negative



16 suspected cases of SARI were reported by 3 health facilities; the samples were taken and sent to Laboratory.



1 suspected cases of VHF was reported by 1 health facility; the sample was taken and sent to Laboratory.



11 suspected cases of Shigellosis were reported by 9 health facilities; the samples were taken and sent to Laboratory.

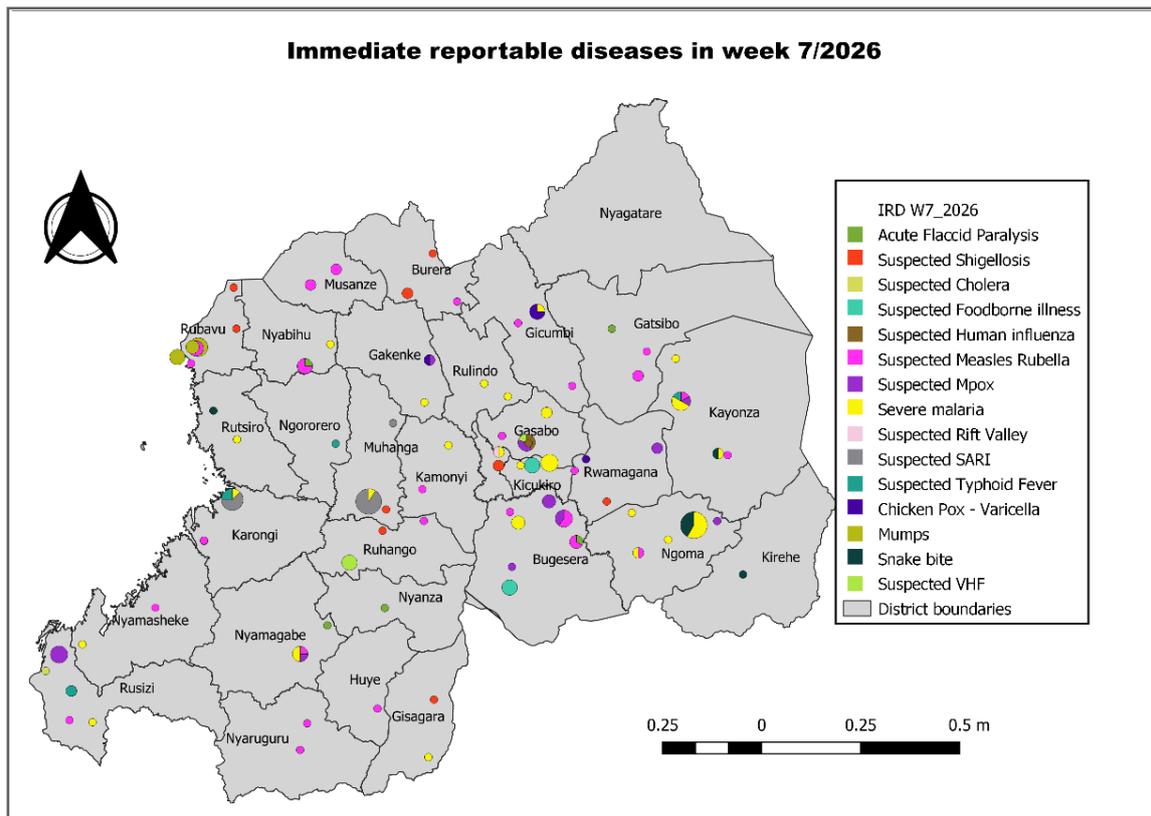


1 suspected case of RVF was reported by 1 health facility; the sample was taken and sent to Laboratory.



1 suspected case of cholera was reported by 1 health facility; the sample was taken and tested negative.

Geographical distribution of immediate reportable disease cases notified during the epi week 7/2026

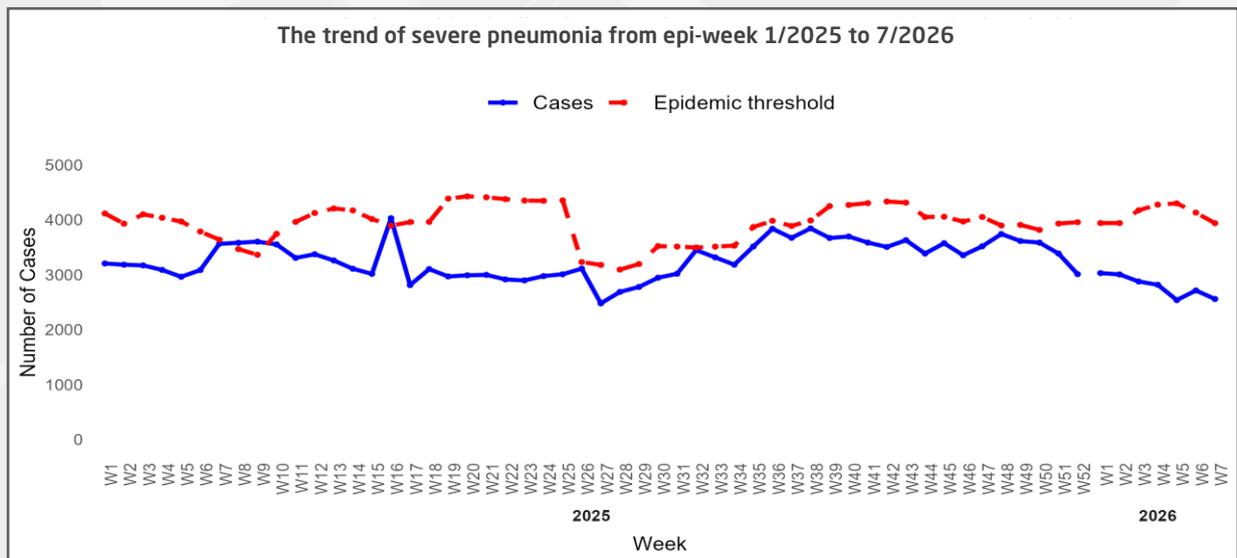
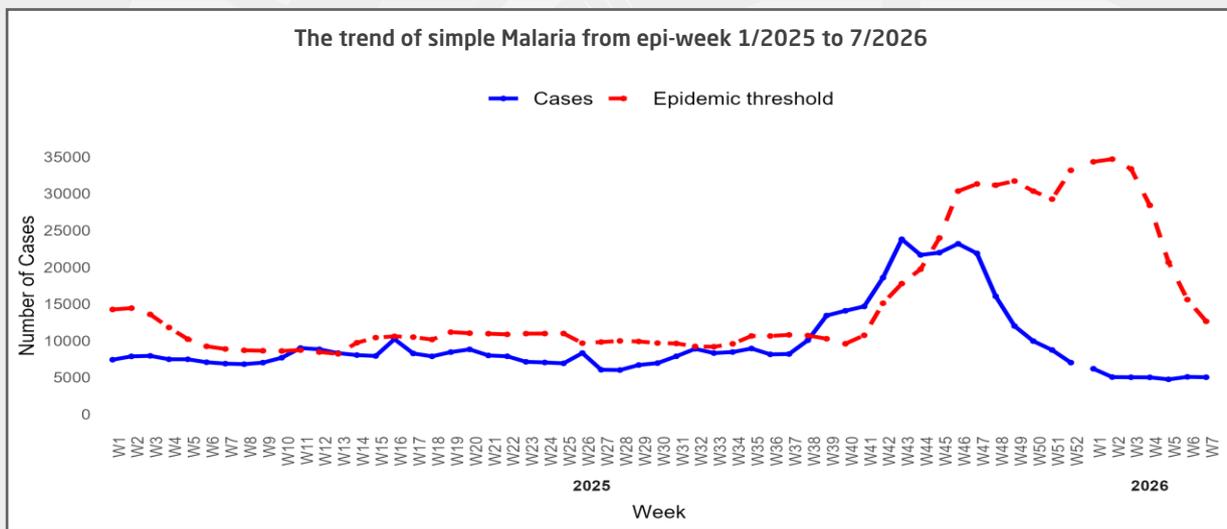
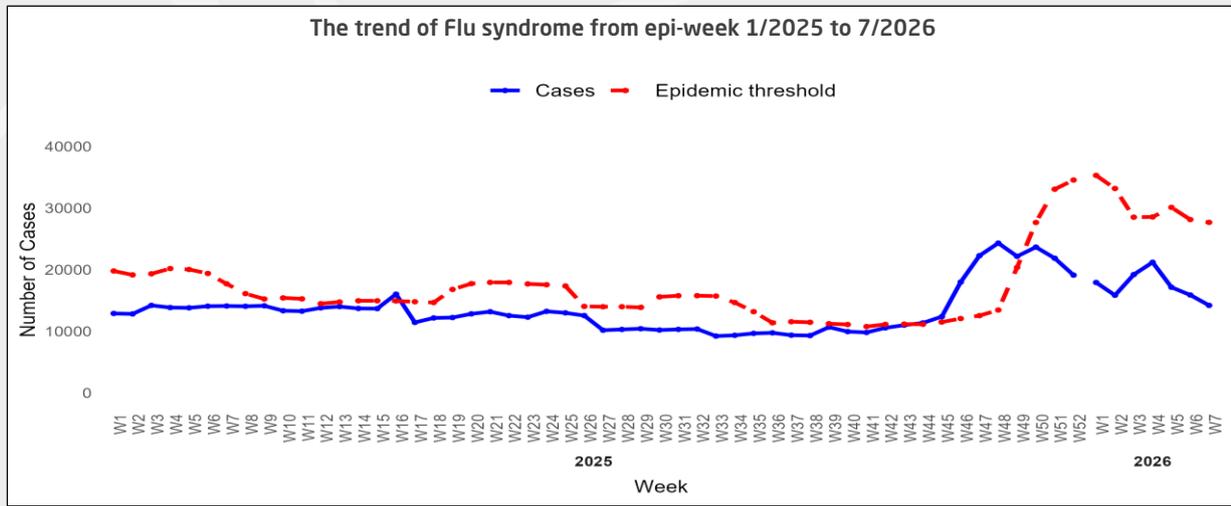


B. WEEKLY REPORTABLE DISEASES - EPI WEEK 7

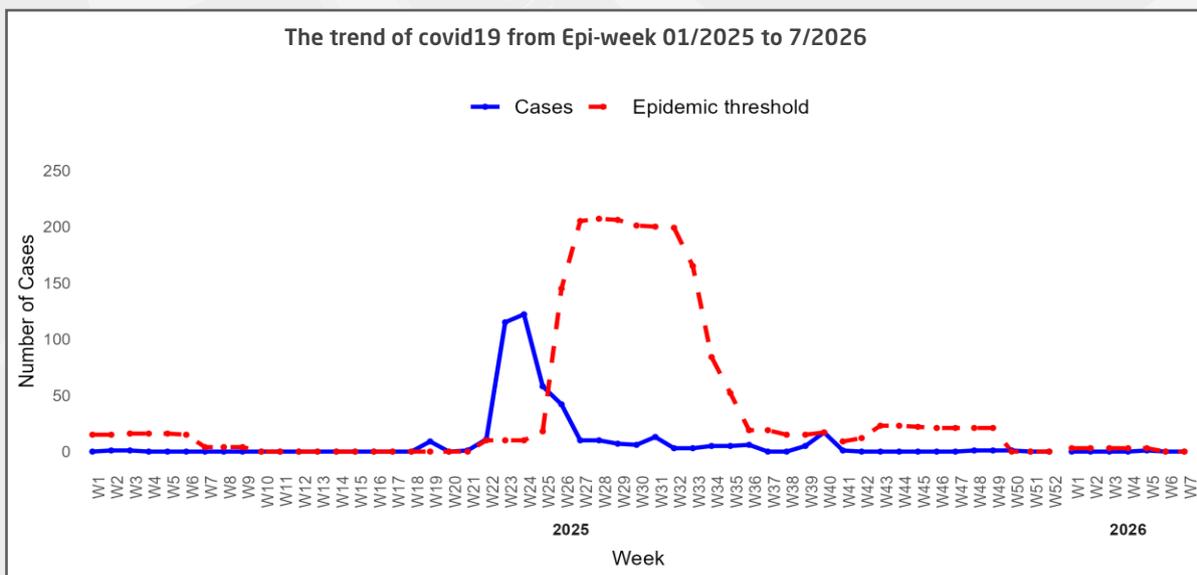
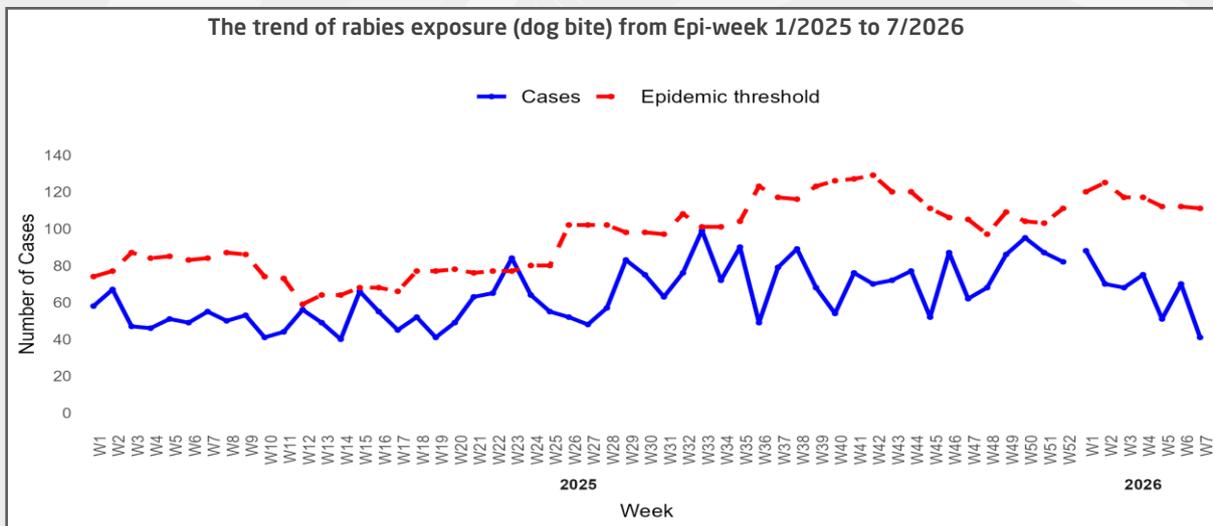
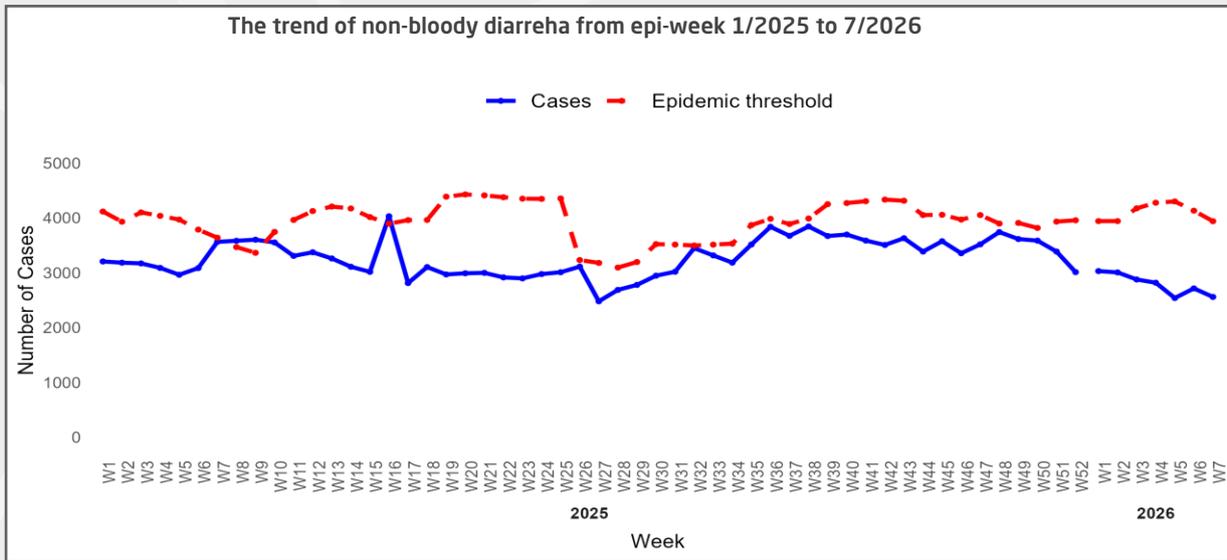
In Rwanda, after the adaptation of the IDSR guidelines 3rd edition, eight diseases events are being reported and analyzed on a weekly basis. These include flu syndrome, simple malaria, severe pneumonia for under 5 years, non-bloody diarrhea for under 5 years, COVID-19, dog bites, brucellosis, and trypanosomiasis.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

In Epi Week 07, 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 revealed that no cases surpassed the epidemic thresholds.

The figures below show the weekly reportable diseases trends:



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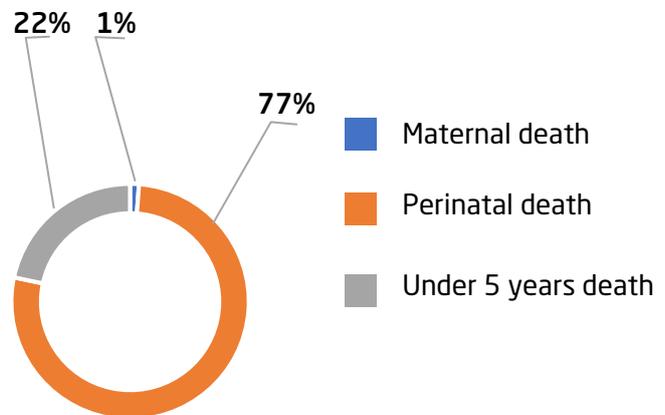


C. DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED DEATHS IN eIDSR

As summarized in the Pie Chart below, a total of 83 deaths were reported through the electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (eIDSR) system. Among these deaths:

- 64 (77%) were perinatal deaths
- 18 (22%) were deaths of children under 5 years old including 2 deaths due to severe pneumonia
- 1 (1%) maternal death

Type of deaths reported in week 7/2026



Distribution of deaths by health facilities

83 deaths were reported from 29 health facilities as follows:

11



11 deaths were reported by CHUK (7 perinatal deaths and 4 under 5 years deaths)

10



10 deaths were reported by Nyagatare DH (8 perinatal deaths and 2 under 5 years deaths)

5



5 deaths were each reported by:

- CHUB (1 maternal death and 4 perinatal deaths)
- Kibuye RH (4 perinatal deaths and 1 under 5 years death)
- Rwinkwavu DH (5 perinatal deaths)

4



4 deaths were each reported by:

- Byumba DH, Gisenyi DH and Murunda DH (each reported 3 perinatal deaths and 1 under 5 years death)
- Nyanza DH (2 perinatal deaths and 2 under 5 years deaths)

3



3 deaths were each reported by Kabaya DH, Kiziguro DH and Masaka DH (3 perinatal deaths)

2



2 deaths were each reported by:

- Gatunda DH (2 under 5 years deaths)
- Munini DH, Nemba DH, Ngarama DH (2 perinatal deaths)
- Kibirizi DH (1 perinatal death and 1 under 5 years death)

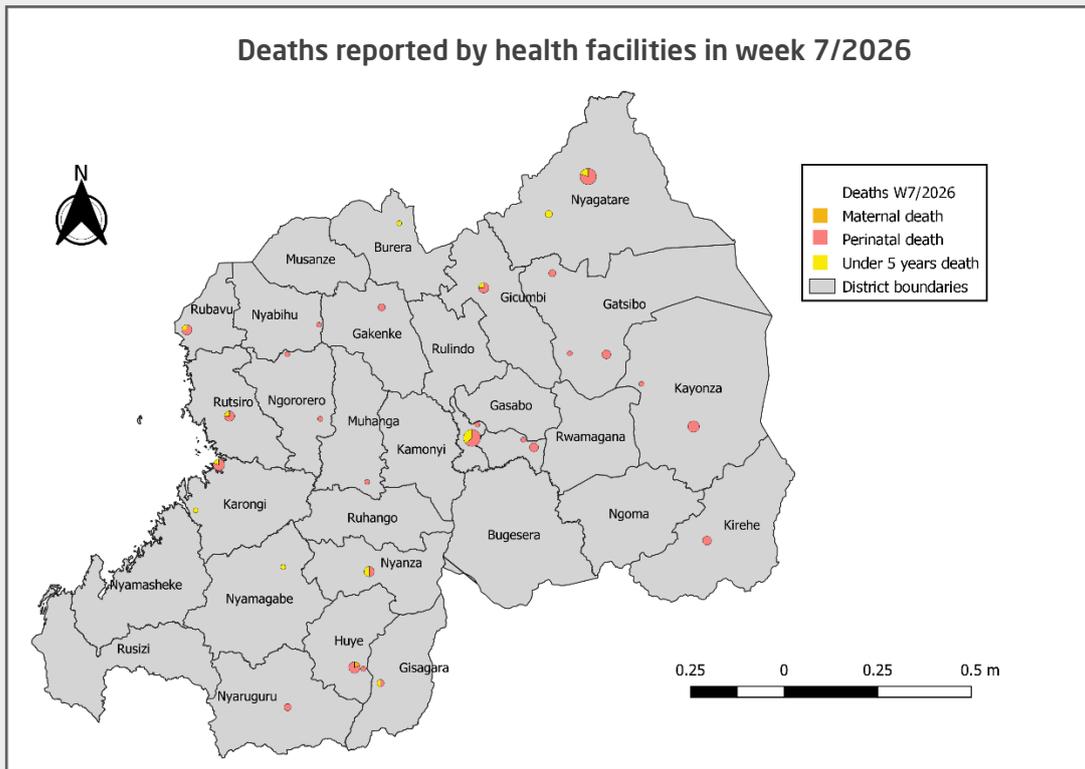
1



1 death was each reported by:

- Gahini DH, Kabaya DH, Kabgayi DH, Kabutare DH, Muhima DH, Muhororo DH, Shyira DH, Rwanda Military Hospital, Muhura HC in Kiziguro DH (each reported 1 perinatal death)
- Butaro DH, Kaduha DH and Mugonero DH (each reported 1 under 5 years death)

Distribution of deaths by health facilities:



OUTBREAK AND EVENT UPDATES IN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK 7

1. Ongoing outbreaks

1.1 Ongoing Mpox outbreak in Rwanda

Rwanda confirmed its first two cases of Mpox on July 24, 2024. The current situation, as of 15th February 2026 was as follows

7903	Cumulative suspected cases
21	New suspected cases
131	Total confirmed cases
0	New confirmed cases
1	Cases under follow up
1	New discharged case



Actions taken

In response to the Mpox outbreak, significant measures are being implemented at both central and district levels. The District Command Posts have been activated to bolster preparedness and improve response efforts. Key actions include:

- Door-to-door active case searches for early detection
- Heightened screening and surveillance in schools and public areas
- Screening at points of entry (POE)
- Ring vaccination
- Public awareness campaigns

1.2 Measles outbreak in Rubavu district

From 1-31 December 2025 there were a total of 24 suspect cases, the samples were taken to NRL and 19 cases came out positive. All patients were treated and discharged from the hospital.

The current situation, as of 15th February 2026 was as follows:

43	Cumulative suspected cases
5	New suspected cases
24	Total confirmed cases
1	New confirmed cases
2	Cases under follow up
3	New discharged cases
0	Pending results

1.3 Cholera outbreak in Rusizi and Nyamasheke districts

Since January ,13th ,2026, a total of 10 suspected cases of cholera have been reported in the Western Province (9 at Gihundwe DH and 1 at Muyange HC/ Nyamasheke). Samples from all the suspected cases were collected and analyzed (culture). Among the 10 suspected cases, 6 were confirmed to have cholera, with Vibrio Cholera Ogawa.

The current situation, as of 15th February 2026 was as follows:

17	Cumulative suspected cases
1	New suspected cases
8	Total confirmed cases
0	Cases under follow up
1	New discharged cases
1	Pending results



Actions taken

- The hospital activated its RRT for investigation
- Reinforced IPC measures in pediatrics department.
- Awareness on measles surveillance in community through CHWs for all suspect cases presenting fever and generalized maculopapular skin rash.
- Identified all children who missed any of MR1 or MR2 vaccine, listed them according to their villages and shared lists to HCs and planned vaccination sessions.



Actions taken

- Filed investigation had been conducted
- Isolation and clinical management of cases
- Strengthened surveillance
- Community sensitization on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) measures
- Distribution of Cholera Rapid Diagnostic Tests for early detection

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

Hospital catchment area	Completeness 2026							Timeliness 2026						
	W01	W02	W03	W04	W05	W06	W07	W01	W02	W03	W04	W05	W06	W07
Nyagatare	100	93	100	100	100	100	100	93	86	100	93	86	100	100
Gatunda	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	89	100	100	100	89
Ngarara	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	88	100	100	100	100	100
Kiziguro	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Gahini	75	88	100	88	100	100	100	75	88	100	88	88	75	88
Rwinkwavu	100	89	89	100	100	100	89	89	89	89	100	78	100	89
Kibungo	100	94	94	100	100	100	100	100	94	94	100	100	100	100
Kirehe	100	95	100	100	100	100	100	100	95	100	100	100	90	100
Rwamagana	100	100	100	89	89	94	94	100	100	100	83	83	89	94
Nyamata	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	94	100	100	100
Kinshira	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Rutongu	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	93	100	100
Gatonde	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Butaro	100	95	100	100	100	100	100	95	90	100	100	90	100	85
Ruli	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Nemba	100	100	100	100	90	100	100	100	90	100	100	80	100	100
Ruhengeri	94	94	100	100	94	83	100	94	94	100	100	94	83	100
Byumba	100	92	100	96	100	100	100	100	88	100	96	96	96	100
CHUB	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Kabutare	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Kagayi	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Kibilizi	100	100	91	100	100	91	100	100	100	91	100	100	91	100
Gakoma	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	83	100
Gtwe	100	100	100	100	89	100	100	100	100	100	100	78	89	100
Ruhango	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Remera Rukoma	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	93	100	93	93	100	100	100
Nyanza	100	100	100	100	100	95	95	100	100	100	95	89	95	95
Kigeme	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	92	100	100
Kaduha	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	90	100	100	100	100	100
Munini	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	88	100	100	100	100
Bushenge	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	88	100	100	100	100	100
Kibogora	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	93	100	100	100	100
Kibuye	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	92
Kiriinda	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	83	100	100	100	100
Mugonero	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	86	100	100	100	100
Shyira	100	94	100	100	100	100	100	100	94	100	100	100	94	100
Muhororo	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	90	100
Kabaya	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ghundwe	90	100	100	100	100	100	100	90	90	100	90	70	100	100
Mibilizi	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	92	100	100	100	100
Gsenyi	100	94	100	100	100	100	100	100	94	100	100	100	100	100
Murunda	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	84	100	100	95	100
CHUK	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Nyarugenge	89	100	100	100	100	100	100	89	100	100	100	100	100	100
Muhima	100	100	75	100	100	100	100	100	100	75	100	100	100	100
RMH	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0	100	100	100	100	100	100
Masaka	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	92	100	100	100	100	100	100
Kigababaga	100	100	100	95	100	100	100	100	100	95	95	80	100	95
Kacyiru	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0	100	100
KFH	100	100	100	0	100	100	100	100	100	100	0	0	100	0
Caras Ndera	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0	100	100
Nyabikenke	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Rwanda(Average)	99	99	99	98	99	99	99	98	97	97	97	95	98	98