

Uganda extends quarantine in Ebola epicenter for 21 days



Red Cross workers don PPE prior to burying a three-year-old boy suspected of dying from Ebola on October 13, 2022 in Mubende, Uganda [File: Luke Dray/Getty Images]

Kampala, November 28 (RHC)-- Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has extended a quarantine placed on two districts that are the epicentre of the country's Ebola outbreak by 21 days, adding that his government's response to the disease was succeeding.

Movement in and out of Mubende and Kassanda districts in central Uganda will be restricted up to December 17, the presidency said late on Saturday. It was originally imposed for 21 days on October 15,

then extended for the same period on November 5. The extensions were “to further sustain the gains in control of Ebola that we have made, and to protect the rest of the country from continued exposure.”

The government’s anti-Ebola efforts were succeeding with two districts now going for roughly two weeks without new cases, the president said. “It may be too early to celebrate any successes, but overall, I have been briefed that the picture is good,” he said in a statement.

The East African nation has so far recorded 141 infections. Fifty-five people have died since the outbreak of the deadly haemorrhagic fever was declared on September 20th. Although the outbreak was gradually being brought under control, the “situation is still fragile,” Museveni said, adding that the country’s weak health system and circulation of misinformation about the disease were still a challenge.

The Ebola virus circulating in Uganda is the Sudan strain, for which there is no proven vaccine, unlike the more common Zaire strain, which spread during recent outbreaks in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

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