

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH



PRESS RELEASE ON DECLARATION OF END OF MARBURG OUTBREAK IN KAGERA

BUKOBA, 02nd JUNE, 2023

Dear Citizens

On 16th March, 2023, the Ministry of Health released preliminary press on the presence of unknown disease that was later confirmed to be Marburg Virus Disease (MVD) outbreak declared officially on March 21, 2023. The disease has potential to spread fast causing serious consequences including loss of life, social and economic effects if not controlled timely.

Dear Citizens

Since declaration of the outbreak, the Government in collaboration with various stakeholders jointly continued to take stringent measures to curb the disease as we have been regularly informing the public. On 19th April 2023, the last Marburg patient was confirmed negative for Marburg Virus and clinically recovered.

Dear Citizens

I take this opportunity to gladly inform you that, 31st May 2023 marks 42 days since the last patient was confirmed negative for Marburg. This translates into successful attainment of criteria for declaration of end of this outbreak thus, today 02nd June 2023, I officially declare the end Marburg disease outbreak.

Dear Citizens

I would like to send my special thanks to all health professionals in the country led by Prof. Tumaini Nagu, the Chief Medical Officer and Dr. Issessanda Kaniki, the Kagera Region Medical Officer who closely supervised the response teams. Also, I thank leaders from Health and other key sectors, citizens, journalists, private sector and various stakeholders for their outstanding efforts towards the control and thus these achievements. Likewise, I thank all National and International Partners, Non-Governmental Organizations and Religious Organizations for their valuable contributions. Special thanks to all responders for being on the frontline to implement all the key interventions to control the disease.

Lastly,

I continue to emphasize the community to remain vigilant at all times and take immediate measures including timely reporting to health authorities in case of any rumor of unusual illness or deaths in the community. I also remind all citizens that, the end of this outbreak should not be interpreted as the end of need to take precautions to protect ourselves against infectious diseases. The Government will continue to take timely and appropriate measures to ensure welfare of the community.

I thank you

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'Ummu A. Mwalimu'.

Issued by: Ummu A. Mwalimu (Mb)

Minister for Health

02 June, 2023