Dear HKU Staff and Students,

The HKSAR Government has announced the activation of the “Alert Response Level” under the Hong Kong Government’s Preparedness and Response Plan for Ebola Virus Disease on May 17, 2026, in view of the ongoing outbreak of Ebola disease caused by the Bundibugyo virus in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda.

The Department of Health urged the public to avoid visiting affected regions unless absolutely necessary. While travelling abroad, it is important to maintain good personal and environmental hygiene:

- Wash hands with liquid soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub before touching the eyes, nose or mouth;
- Avoid close contact with people who have a fever or feel unwell, and avoid contact with patients' blood or body fluids, as well as items that may have been exposed to such fluids;
- Avoid contact with animals, especially know animal reservoirs such as fruit bats, chimpanzees, gorillas, monkeys, forest antelope or porcupines; and
- Ensure food is thoroughly cooked before consumption.

You may visit the following websites for more disease information and travel health advice:

1. Ebola Disease
2. WHO
3. Travel Health News
4. Ebola Disease and Prevention of Ebola Disease

Thank you for your attention.

Dr. M K Cheung

Director

University Health Service

May 19, 2026