

Uganda free of Ebola, Congo cases spike

Kampala, Uganda: Ugandan authorities said on Tuesday the East African country was “free” of Ebola after the last patient was discharged in mid-June, a delicate milestone as the virus continues to plague a remote part of neighbouring Congo.

Uganda always insisted its outbreak was linked to the larger one that started in eastern Congo’s province of Ituri, which shares a land border with Uganda.

According to local authorities, the first cases in Uganda’s outbreak were Congolese people who crossed the border to seek treatment for an unknown illness before it was known they had Ebola.

Congo declared its outbreak on May 15, the same day



A worker collects a rubber glove in Kampala, Uganda, on June 8. (Reuters file picture)

Uganda confirmed two Ebola cases — including a man who had already died.

“Unlike previous Ebola outbreaks that informed the current 42-day declaration policy, Uganda’s 2026 Ebola outbreak arose from a fully documented importation

event,” the Ugandan ministry of health said in a statement on Tuesday.

That statement said it was now possible to declare Uganda free of Ebola after “all identified contacts were institutionally quarantined and completed the mandatory 21-day follow-up without evidence of further transmission. Enhanced surveillance has detected no unexplained community transmission”.

In Congo, confirmed Ebola cases have reached 3,262, its ministry of health said in an overnight update, nearly the same as the 2018-2020 outbreak that is the largest ever recorded in the country.