

WHO Declares DRC Ebola Outbreak a Global Health Emergency as Death Toll Hits 87

The World Health Organization declared the Democratic Republic of Congo's fast-moving Ebola outbreak a public health emergency of international concern on Sunday, escalating the global response to a crisis that has already killed at least 87 people and infected hundreds more in less than three weeks.

The outbreak was first formally confirmed on May 15 in DRC's northeastern Ituri Province, centered around the health zones of Mongwalu and Rwampara. Africa CDC reported 246 suspected cases and 65 deaths when it first announced the outbreak; by Saturday, Africa CDC director general Dr. Jean Kaseya said the toll had risen to 336 suspected cases and 87 deaths. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stressed in his declaration that the emergency "does not

meet the criteria of pandemic emergency" and advised countries against closing their borders.

What makes this outbreak uniquely alarming is the strain involved. Unlike most previous DRC outbreaks — which involved the well-studied Zaire strain — laboratory testing has confirmed this one as the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola, for which no approved vaccine currently exists. Available vaccines like Ervebo target the Zaire strain and offer little or no protection against Bundibugyo. With 87 deaths among 246 confirmed and suspected cases, the case fatality rate exceeds 35%, consistent with historical Bundibugyo outbreaks.

The situation became more urgent when, on May 14, a 59-year-old Congolese man died of the virus in Kampala, Uganda's

capital after traveling by public transport from DRC while symptomatic. His body was later transported back across the border for burial — another potential transmission event. Uganda's Ministry of Health confirmed the imported case and has activated outbreak control measures.

Health officials note that Ituri borders both Uganda and South Sudan, and the affected areas see intense cross-border population movement tied to mining activity and ongoing insecurity — all factors that increase transmission risk. WHO has rapidly scaled up support, deploying additional experts in epidemiology, infection prevention, and laboratory diagnostics. The US CDC said it is monitoring the outbreak and providing technical assistance to both the DRC and Ugandan governments.

Top Global News

Israel Kills Hamas Military Wing Leader in Gaza Strike

An Israeli airstrike in Gaza killed Izz al-Din al-Haddad, the leader of Hamas' Qassam Brigades military wing, on Friday, May 16. Israeli officials confirmed he was one of the last surviving architects of the October 7, 2023, attacks that killed around 1,200 people in Israel. Hamas also confirmed his death.

Al-Haddad, nicknamed "the Ghost," had survived multiple prior assassination attempts. He assumed the role of Hamas military commander after his predecessor, Mohammed Sinwar, was killed in May 2025. Israel's army chief of staff called the killing "a significant operation." Six other people were killed in the same strike, including al-Haddad's wife and daughter; his two sons had been killed earlier in the war.

Israel has escalated its attacks in Gaza in the weeks since halting joint bombing with the US in Iran, as ceasefire negotiations remain stalled over the disarmament of Hamas.

Top US News



Kevin Warsh Takes Helm of Federal Reserve as Inflation Complicates Rate-Cut Path

Kevin Warsh officially succeeded Jerome Powell as chair of the Federal Reserve on Friday, May 15, taking the helm of the world's most powerful central bank at a particularly fraught moment. The Senate confirmed Warsh 54-45 on Wednesday —

the lowest confirmation margin ever for a Fed chair — with only one Democrat, Pennsylvania's John Fetterman, crossing the aisle.

Warsh inherits an economy battered by the Iran war's oil shock. The consumer price index rose 3.8% in April — well above the Fed's 2% target — while wholesale prices soared 6%. Treasury yields spiked on Friday, with the 30-year bond topping 5.1%, its highest in more than a year, as markets priced in the possibility of future rate hikes rather than cuts. Odds for a rate hike sometime this year rose to 45%, up from just 1% a month earlier, according to CME FedWatch.

Trump has long demanded steep rate cuts from the Fed, but Warsh told senators during his confirmation hearing that he made the president no such promises. Powell opted to remain on the Fed's Board of Governors, contrary to modern precedent, citing ongoing threats to the Fed's independence from the Trump administration.

Trump Returns from China Summit Facing Domestic Inflation Pressure

President Trump returned to Washington from his two-day summit in Beijing facing immediate headwinds from rising inflation and market turmoil. The S&P 500 fell 1.24% and the Dow dropped 537 points on Friday as investors assessed the lack of major breakthroughs from the China trip and worried about the Iran war's continued pressure on oil prices.

Trump called the meetings with Xi "fantastic" and claimed progress was made, but no major signed deals were announced. He told reporters China would not provide military equipment to Iran and that Xi had agreed to purchase 200 Boeing jets. Meanwhile, social media attention focused on a separate announcement: Trump said at his direction, US and Nigerian forces killed a senior ISIS commander in Nigeria, calling it a "complex" and flawlessly executed mission.

Ukraine News



Ukraine Launches Large-Scale Drone Attack on Moscow Region

Ukraine carried out a large-scale drone strike on the Moscow region overnight May 16-17, with Russian officials and local residents reporting multiple explosions across the area. Russian air defenses shot down many of the drones, but the attack rattled the Russian capital.

President Zelensky described the operation as a "completely fair response" to ongoing Russian attacks on Ukrainian cities. Separately, Russia launched 287 attack drones at Ukraine overnight, Ukraine's Air Force said, with 279 shot down or suppressed by air defenses. Eight drones struck seven locations across the country, killing at least 2 people and injuring 41 others.

Over the course of the past week, Russia launched more than 3,170 attack drones, over 1,300 guided bombs, and 74 missiles at Ukraine. Ukrainian forces recorded 234 combat engagements over the past day on the frontline.

Russia Continues Heavy Frontline Assaults; Ukrainian Forces Hold

Ukrainian forces repelled dozens of Russian assault attempts across multiple frontline axes on May 16-17, including near Vovchansk, Pokrovsk, and Kostiantynivka. The Pokrovsk direction

remained the most active sector, with Russia attacking 23 times in one day. In total, 234 combat engagements were recorded over the past day.

Russian forces have suffered an estimated 1,170 casualties over the past 24 hours, bringing total losses since February 24, 2022 to approximately 1,348,790 according to Ukrainian General Staff figures. A US waiver permitting purchases of Russian oil stranded at sea expired as of May 16 without renewal, tightening financial pressure on Russia's war revenues.

Moldovan President Maia Sandu warned that Putin's new decree simplifying Russian citizenship procedures for Transnistrian residents is likely a war recruitment tool, saying Moscow needs more soldiers to send to Ukraine.

Vietnamese News

Vietnam National University, Hanoi Urged to Target Top 100 in Asia by 2030

Party General Secretary and State President To Lam called on Vietnam National University, Hanoi, to aim for a ranking among Asia's top 100 universities by 2030 and the world's top 300 by 2035. Speaking at the university on Saturday, he urged the institution to act more decisively as a national research hub and pioneering force in the country's higher education system.

The directive comes as Vietnam pushes major investment in its digital economy and education sector as part of the country's ambition for rapid, sustainable development. Hanoi's People's Committee also officially approved a new 100-year Capital Master Plan, setting out strategic goals through 2085, positioning the city as a green, smart, globally competitive metropolis anchored by transit, digital governance, and the Red River corridor.

With inflation running at 3.8% and oil above \$109 a barrel, Trump faces growing political risk heading into the midterm cycle, though he stated publicly he was "not thinking about the political implications."

Top NJ/NY News



NJ Transit World Cup Train Fares Cut to \$98 After Backlash

New Jersey Gov. Mikie Sherrill announced that NJ Transit round-trip train tickets to World Cup matches at MetLife Stadium have been reduced to \$98 — down from \$150 when they were first announced, and from \$105 after a first round of cuts earlier this month. The final reduction was made possible by private corporate sponsorships including DoorDash, Audible, FanDuel, DraftKings, PSE&G, South Jersey Industries, and American Water, with no New Jersey taxpayer money involved.

New York also cut shuttle bus fares to \$20, down from \$80 originally. The rail tickets are available exclusively to World Cup match ticket holders via NJ Transit's mobile app, with 40,000 round-trip passes available per match day. By comparison, the normal 18-mile round-trip from Penn Station to MetLife Station costs approximately \$13.

MetLife Stadium — temporarily renamed New York New Jersey Stadium for the tournament — will host eight World Cup matches between June 13 and July 19, including the tournament final. The first match is Brazil vs. Morocco on June 13. NJ Transit expects to move more than 78,000 spectators per match.

Ho Chi Minh City Eyes Maritime Finance Hub Status with New Financial Centre

Ho Chi Minh City is actively pursuing its ambition to become a regional maritime finance hub through the proposed Vietnam International Financial Centre (VIFC). City officials are seeking to position HCM City not only as a major transshipment gateway for goods but as a center linking ports, logistics, and global capital flows.

Separately, TikTok announced plans to allocate VND 100 billion (approximately \$4 million) in the final six months of 2026 to expand its "e-commerce commune" model nationwide — a grassroots digital commerce initiative helping entire communes sell local products online in a coordinated fashion. Vietnam's Chamber of Commerce and Industry also unveiled the country's first-ever Business Performance Index on May 15, offering a new measure of provincial competitiveness.

Financial and Stock News



Stocks Tumble Friday as Treasury Yields Hit One-Year Highs After Iran War Inflation Fears

Wall Street ended the week sharply lower on Friday, with the S&P 500 shedding 1.24% to close at 7,408.50, the Nasdaq falling 1.54% to

Dorchester Elementary School News & Events

Upcoming: Gr. 2 into 3 Transition Meeting for Parents — Monday, May 18

Dorchester Elementary School is hosting a Gr. 2 into 3 Transition Meeting for Parents on Monday, May 18, at 7:00 PM. This is a key opportunity for 2nd-grade families to learn about what to expect as students move into 3rd grade — including curriculum changes, new academic expectations, and how to support the transition at home.

Parents are encouraged to attend to get firsthand information from the school's staff. Check the school website at des.woodcliff-lake.com or the district site at woodcliff-lake.com for any updated details on location or format (in-person or virtual).

Upcoming: Memorial Day Weekend — School Closed May 22 & May 25

Dorchester Elementary School will be closed for Memorial Day Weekend starting Friday, May 22, through Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day). The school resumes its regular schedule on Tuesday, May 26.

Looking ahead on the calendar: Dorchester Field Day is scheduled for Friday, May 29, with the rain date of Friday, June 6. The Woodcliff Lake Art Show takes place Tuesday, June 2 at 6:30 PM, followed by the PFA Meeting and Band/Chorus Concert both on Tuesday, June 9.

Top Tech and AI News



OpenAI Brings Codex to ChatGPT Mobile App for Over 4 Million Weekly Users

OpenAI launched a preview of Codex in the ChatGPT mobile app on May 14-15, making its coding agent accessible from iOS and Android across all subscription plans, including Free and Go tiers. The mobile version acts as a remote control companion: Codex continues running on a connected Mac, laptop, or devbox, while the phone lets developers monitor tasks, approve commands, review diffs, and steer threads from anywhere.

More than 4 million people now use Codex every week, according to OpenAI. The launch also included Hooks general availability, Codex access tokens for trusted automation, and HIPAA-compliant support for eligible enterprise workspaces. Setup requires both the ChatGPT mobile app and the Codex app on macOS to be updated, then pairing via QR code.

Separately, OpenAI is reportedly in the process of merging ChatGPT, Codex, and the developer API into a single unified product team headed by Codex boss Thibault Sottiaux, aiming to build a "super app" that also integrates the Atlas browser.

NVIDIA Set for Highly Anticipated Earnings on May 20 Amid \$5.5T Market Cap

NVIDIA shares pulled back roughly 4.4% on Friday amid broader tech sector selling, but the company remains one of the most closely watched earnings events in the market with results due May 20. Wall Street analysts broadly expect Q1 revenue of around \$79 billion, up 78% year-over-year, with much attention on the company's forward guidance — especially for data center revenue from outside China.

The company's market capitalization stood near \$5.5 trillion as of this week. In recent weeks NVIDIA surpassed \$40 billion in equity investment commitments for 2026 alone, including deals with data center operator IREN (up to \$2.1 billion) and glass maker Corning (up to \$3.2 billion) to accelerate AI infrastructure buildout. Analyst firm TD Cowen recently raised its NVDA price target to \$275.

26,225.14, and the Dow dropping 537 points to 49,526.17. The selloff was driven by spiking Treasury yields — the 10-year note hit 4.55%, its highest in about a year, and the 30-year bond topped 5.1% — as markets repriced inflation risk in the wake of the ongoing Iran war's energy shock.

Technology stocks bore the brunt of the selling. Intel fell more than 6%, AMD and Micron dropped roughly 5-6%, and Nvidia shed 4.4%. Investors were also reassessing the outlook for consumer spending: retail sales (ex-autos) rose just 0.7% in April, slowing from a 1.9% gain in March.

Despite Friday's slide, the S&P 500 is still up more than 12% in 2026. The coming week brings Nvidia's highly anticipated earnings on May 20, along with reports from Walmart, Home Depot, and Target.

Brent Crude Tops \$109 a Barrel as Strait of Hormuz Remains Choked

Brent crude oil rose above \$109 a barrel on Friday, continuing a surge driven by the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz for more than two months due to the US-Israel conflict with Iran. The rise in oil prices is the primary driver behind April's 3.8% consumer price inflation reading and the 6% jump in wholesale producer prices, raising fears of a prolonged inflationary environment.

Analyst Dan Niles of Niles Investment Management warned on CNBC that oil price spikes historically precede recessions, saying "ten of the last 12 recessions were preceded by a spike in oil." Markets are now pricing in a meaningful chance of a Fed rate hike this year — up sharply from near-zero odds just a month ago — rather than the cuts Trump has demanded. Precious metals sold off alongside equities on Friday, with gold falling 2.7% and silver down nearly 8%.

CALENDAR

TODAY — MAY 17

11:00 AM Joba: Picture day

TOMORROW — MAY 18

12:00 AM Bo Tao's birthday
5:00 PM Lizzy Ballet
6:00 PM WCL Hoops - Free Clinic (2nd Grade Girls REC)
7:00 PM Transition 2nd to 3rd grade
7:00 PM Gr. 2 into 3 Transition Meeting for Parents

TUESDAY — MAY 19

4:00 PM Lizzy: Hip hop

WEDNESDAY — MAY 20

12:00 AM Hien Nguyen's birthday
9:30 AM Huang: Patient follow up
7:00 PM Racquetball weekly

THURSDAY — MAY 21

5:00 PM William: Karate

FRIDAY — MAY 22

12:00 AM Memorial Day Weekend - School Closed
10:00 AM Hearing test

SATURDAY — MAY 23

12:00 AM Clean house front walls
2:00 PM Music class William and Elizabeth

MONDAY — MAY 25

12:00 AM Memorial Day - School Closed

MOVIES



Flower Bot

In theaters May 17, 2026

In a scorching hot desert, Betty, a young robot still grieving her kind, discovers a miraculous flower. To protect her, Betty will have to face the elements and her ties to the past...



The Sheep Detectives

In theaters May 8, 2026

George Hardy is a shepherd who read detective novels to his beloved sheep every night, assuming they can't possibly understand. But when a mysterious incident disrupts life on the farm, the sheep realize they must become the detectives. As they follow the clues and investigate human suspects, they prove that even sheep can be brilliant crime-solvers.



My Hero Academia: More

In theaters May 2, 2026

Eight years later, Deku and his friends are on their adult hero journeys, but something is bothering Uraraka...



Swapped

In theaters May 1, 2026

A small woodland creature and a majestic bird, two natural sworn enemies of the Valley, magically trade places and set off on an adventure of a lifetime to switch back. Their journey soon uncovers a greater threat—one that could endanger not only their species, but the entire valley they call home.



That Time I Got Reincarnated as a Slime: Tears of the Azure Sea

In theaters May 1, 2026

After concluding the opening ceremony of the Demon Kingdom Federation Tempest, Rimuru and his companions are invited by the Celestial Emperor Hermesia of the great elven nation — the Magi Dynasty Salion — to visit her private resort island. As the group enjoys their brief vacation, a mysterious woman named Yura appears. A new incident unfolds against the backdrop of the boundless azure sea.