

DR Congo's Ebola outbreak coming to an end: minister

June 28 2018

An outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo is just weeks away from being defeated, after claiming 29 lives, the country's health minister said Thursday.

The "countdown" has begun, Oly Ilunga, said, noting that "all those in contact with the last confirmed cases of Ebola have finished their 21-day surveillance period without showing signs of contamination."

He said the outbreak, the ninth in the former Belgian colony since 1976, could be declared over after 42 days without a new confirmed case—representing two [incubation periods](#) of the highly contagious hemorrhagic virus.

Its return dates from May 8, with the first cases from two rural areas in the northwest of the country, making the disease hard to treat.

The minister hailed the effectiveness of vaccines administered to 3,330 vulnerable people.

The death toll stood at 29 as of Tuesday, Ilunga said.

An Ebola epidemic in 2014 left 11,300 people dead, mainly in West Africa.

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