The Minister of Health, Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana, this Saturday, September 28, 2024 confirmed six people in Rwanda have died from an outbreak of the Marburg virus disease, while another 20 have been infected.

“In Rwanda, an outbreak of Marburg virus disease has been reported. We have recorded 20 people infected, and six have died.”Minister Nsanzimana announced.

He explained that the majority of those infected are healthcare workers, particularly in the wards treating severe cases. He informed Rwandans that the Ministry of Health is collaborating with other government agencies and partners to identify those who have come into contact with the infected individuals and the deceased.

The Ministry of Health On September 27, 2024 announced that this disease had been detected in Rwanda, explaining that an investigation had begun to determine the source of the outbreak and measures are being implemented to contain it.

This disease is transmitted through contact with the blood and other bodily fluids of an infected person. The Ministry of Health clarified that it does not spread through the air.

Symptoms include severe headaches, high fever, vomiting, muscle pain, abdominal pain, and diarrhea. Preventive measures involve reinforcing hygiene practices and avoid sharing utensils with individuals showing similar symptoms.

Minister Nsanzimana stated that the Rwandan government is working with international organizations to combat this disease, assuring that with cooperation, this outbreak will be overcome like previous ones.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has pledged its support to Rwanda in its efforts to combat the Marburg virus disease (MVD).

WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, expressed the organization’s commitment to supporting Rwanda via his X account, stating, “Rwanda’s Ministry of Health has reported cases of Marburg. WHO is scaling up its support and will work with the government of Rwanda to stop the spread of the virus and protect people at risk.”

The Ministry continues to urged the public to remain vigilant and seek immediate medical attention if they experience symptoms such as high fever, severe headache, vomiting, muscle pain, or abdominal pain. Citizens are advised to contact

the Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) at the toll-free number 114 or visit the nearest health facility for assessment.