

Global Immigration alert

July 2026

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Middle East

Several countries in the Middle East region continue to impose targeted entry restrictions in response to Ebola outbreak

Executive summary

Several countries across the Middle East region continued to impose precautionary travel and public health measures following the Ebola outbreak in Central and East Africa. Countries, including the United Arab Emirates (UAE), through coordinated action by relevant authorities, have implemented visa suspensions and entry restrictions for travelers with recent connections to high-risk countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), South Sudan and Uganda. Some countries, including Jordan and Saudi Arabia, have also introduced quarantine requirements.

Across the region, authorities have strengthened screening procedures at airports and advised against nonessential travel to affected areas. While the public health risk remains low, authorities continue to monitor the situation and maintain preparedness measures.

Background

On 15 May 2026, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) declared an Ebola outbreak involving the Bundibugyo strain, with subsequent cases identified in Uganda. On 17 May 2026, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). In response, governments [introduced](#) measures aimed at reducing the risk of international spread.

Key developments

Governments in the Middle East region have introduced a range of border control measures and travel restrictions in response to the outbreak:

- **Bahrain:** Bahrain recently suspended entry for non-Bahraini nationals arriving from or who had been present in the DRC, South Sudan or Uganda within the previous 30 days. The measure remains subject to review. Bahraini nationals may continue to enter the country but could be subject to health measures, including quarantine requirements.
- **Jordan:** Jordan recently banned entry for travelers arriving from the DRC and Uganda, except Jordanian nationals. The measure was introduced following a recommendation from the Ministry of Health and remains subject to review.

- **Saudi Arabia:** Saudi Arabia has suspended travel by its nationals to the DRC, South Sudan and Uganda, and suspended visa issuance for nationals of these countries. Entry is also restricted to travelers arriving from, or who have stayed in any of the affected countries within 21 days before entering Saudi Arabia, including those transiting through third countries.
- **The UAE:** The UAE recently introduced additional Ebola-related measures for travelers from the DRC, South Sudan or Uganda. New visas for nationals of these countries have been suspended, and entry is restricted for travelers arriving from or transiting through them unless they have spent at least 21 consecutive days outside the affected countries. Enhanced health screening has been implemented at airports and key checkpoints, while transit flights and cargo operations remain unaffected.
- **Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan and Qatar:** As of the end of June 2026, these countries had not announced any Ebola-related entry or travel restrictions. However, Pakistan has implemented enhanced health screening at all entry points, and travelers may be subject to standard public health measures.

Impact on employers

Entry restrictions, visa suspensions and health-monitoring requirements across multiple jurisdictions may disrupt business travel and cross-border mobility involving affected countries. Employers should monitor evolving travel restrictions, screening protocols and quarantine requirements, and adjust travel plans and mobility strategies accordingly.

They should also ensure compliance with changing immigration and public health measures, while reviewing travel policies and contingency plans to mitigate potential disruptions. In addition, employers should reinforce employee awareness of official health guidance and continue monitoring regulatory developments across relevant jurisdictions.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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