South American Countries Take Preventative Measures against Ebola

La Paz, August 13 (NNN-RHC) – In related news, Bolivia, Argentina, Ecuador and Brazil announced measures to prevent the Ebola outbreak within their borders, by issuing a health emergency to step up monitoring and detection of any suspected cases.

Roberto Torrez, head of epidemiology at Bolivia's regional health service (Sedes) of eastern Santa Cruz department, told reporters Tuesday at a press conference that the department's health workers have been mobilized in case of an outbreak.

Control measures have been placed at border crossings and ports of entry, including airports in all departments, and health workers will receive training and be updated on how to handle patients infected with the virus, he said.

Argentina and Ecuador on Monday announced preventive measures to fend off potential Ebola outbreaks. Argentine cabinet chief Jorge Capitanich said the government has set up a "monitoring system" to prevent the spread of the deadly virus. Ecuadoran officials also announced a series of measures to prevent a possible outbreak of Ebola, including vigilance at ports of entry and border crossings.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has so far not recommended a ban on international travel or trade, but said "states should be prepared to detect, investigate and manage Ebola cases."

No Ebola cases have been reported in Latin America, but WHO on Friday warned the disease was now a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern," and called for "a coordinated international response... to stop and reverse the international spread of Ebola."

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