



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF LAMU

Department of Public Health, Sanitation and Environment

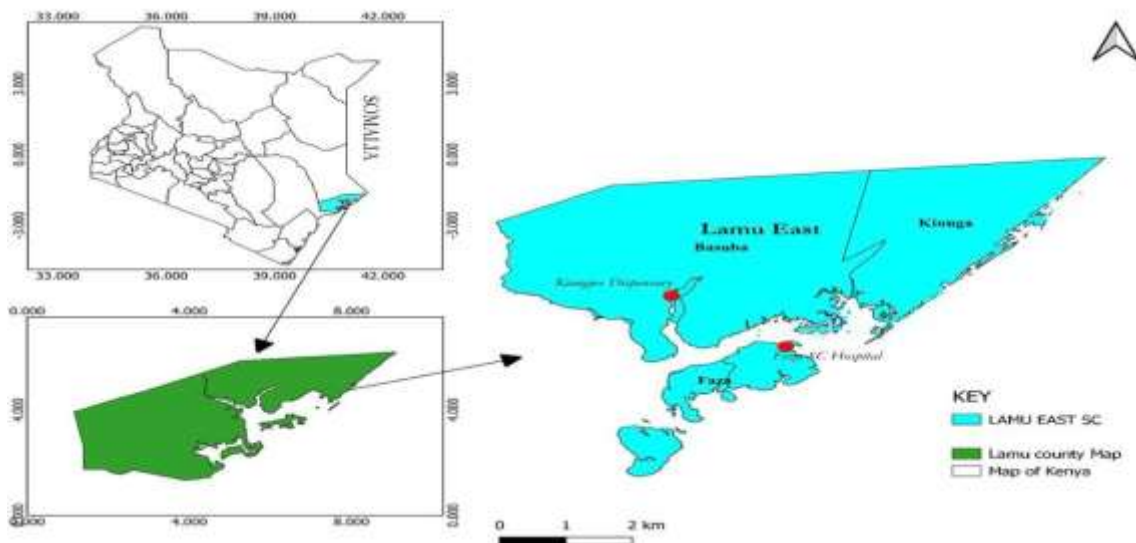
LAMU COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY, SPOT REPORT (SPOTREP).

Date / Time:

21st April 2026 | 15:19 Hrs

Incident Title or Name:

Rumored Mystery Illness in Boni Forest, Basuba Ward, Lamu County.



Information Source:

Media report from *Daily Nation* by Kalume Kazungu; verification conducted through Kiangwe Health Facility staff, including the Nurse Facility In-Charge, the Area Community Health Assistant, and Community Health Promoters within Basuba Ward.

Narrative:

Reports circulating in the media, including from the *Daily Nation*, indicated a suspected death linked to a “mystery illness” reportedly affecting children in the Boni Forest area of Basuba Ward, Lamu East Sub-county, Lamu County. The reports alluded to an unclassified flu-like febrile illness allegedly spreading within the community, which generated public concern and necessitated immediate verification.

A rapid verification exercise was initiated through both community-based and facility-based surveillance systems. This involved close coordination with Community Health Promoters (CHPs) and healthcare workers at Kiangwe Health Facility. Findings from these verification efforts consistently indicate that the situation on the ground remains stable, with no evidence of increased morbidity, clustering of cases, or any epidemiological pattern suggestive of an outbreak.

The verification process identified a single case involving a 5-year-old male child who developed high-grade fever on 14th April 2026 and presented at Kiangwe Health Facility on 17th April 2026. The child was clinically managed as a case of febrile illness and was later reported to have passed away at home on 18th April 2026. Based on the available clinical information and field assessment, the presentation is consistent with a common febrile illness. There are no identified epidemiological links, unusual clinical features, or additional risk factors. The death is therefore considered most likely attributable to natural causes, pending any further review if new information emerges.

Importantly, no additional cases presenting with similar symptoms have been identified either at the health facility or through community-based surveillance structures. Routine surveillance data, complemented by active case search within the affected locality, does not demonstrate any abnormal trends or signals indicative of a public health event.

The Boni Forest area continues to be closely monitored through heightened event-based and indicator-based surveillance. Health workers have been sensitized on early detection, prompt reporting, and immediate notification of any unusual health events. At this point in time, there is no evidence to support the existence of a “mystery illness” or any outbreak in Basuba Ward or the wider Lamu East Sub-county.

Actions:

- Immediate verification conducted with CHPs and health facility staff.
- Situation assessment confirmed no outbreak or unusual health event.
- Enhanced surveillance and active case search initiated in Basuba Ward and surrounding areas.
- Continuous engagement with community health structures to monitor any emerging cases.
- Risk communication recommended to address misinformation and reassure the public.
- Notification and updates provided to relevant authorities and partners.

Information Controls:

To be shared with: Division of Disease Surveillance and Response Unit (DDSRU), National PHEOC, County Director of Public Health, County Disease Surveillance Coordinator, County Health Management Team (CHMT), and relevant health partners.

Submitter’s Name:

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Submitter’s Duty / Position:

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