

2014-15 EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD) OUTBREAK BI-MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR BC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

For September 17 to November 4, 2015

OVERVIEW

There has been an ongoing epidemic of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in West Africa since March 2014. Weekly case incidence has remained at 5 confirmed cases or fewer since the week ending on 2 August 2015. Although no new cases were reported for the first time in weeks ending on 4 October and on 11 October 2015, a small number of cases continues to be reported in Guinea, the latest 4 confirmed cases arising from a single family and household. No new cases have been reported in Sierra Leone since the week ending on 13 September 2015; the country will be declared free of EVD transmission on 7 November 2015 if no further cases are reported. Liberia was declared EVD-free for a second time on September 3, 2015.

EVD CASES (as of November 1, 2015)¹

Overall: 28 607 cases, 11 314 deaths

COUNTRIES WITH WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE TRANSMISSION (West Africa)^a

Country	Cases ^b							
	Total ¹	Week to 20 Sept ²	Week to 27 Sept ³	Week to 4 Oct ⁴	Week to 11 Oct ⁵	Week to 18 Oct ⁶	Week to 25 Oct ⁷	Week to 1 Nov ¹
Liberia (to 9 May 2015)	10 666	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liberia ^c	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sierra Leone	14 089	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guinea	3 810	2	4	0	0	3	3	1

^a For more details, including most recent epidemic curves, please see the WHO Situation Report – 4 November at: <http://apps.who.int/ebola/en/current-situation/ebola-situation-report>; numbers are subject to change due to ongoing reclassification, retrospective investigation and availability of laboratory results.

^b Total includes confirmed, probable and suspected cases; weekly counts include confirmed cases only.

^c Cases of EVD in Liberia reported between June 29 and July 12, 2015 represent a re-emergence of EVD that was declared over on September 3, 2015; the initial EVD outbreak was declared over on May 9, 2015.

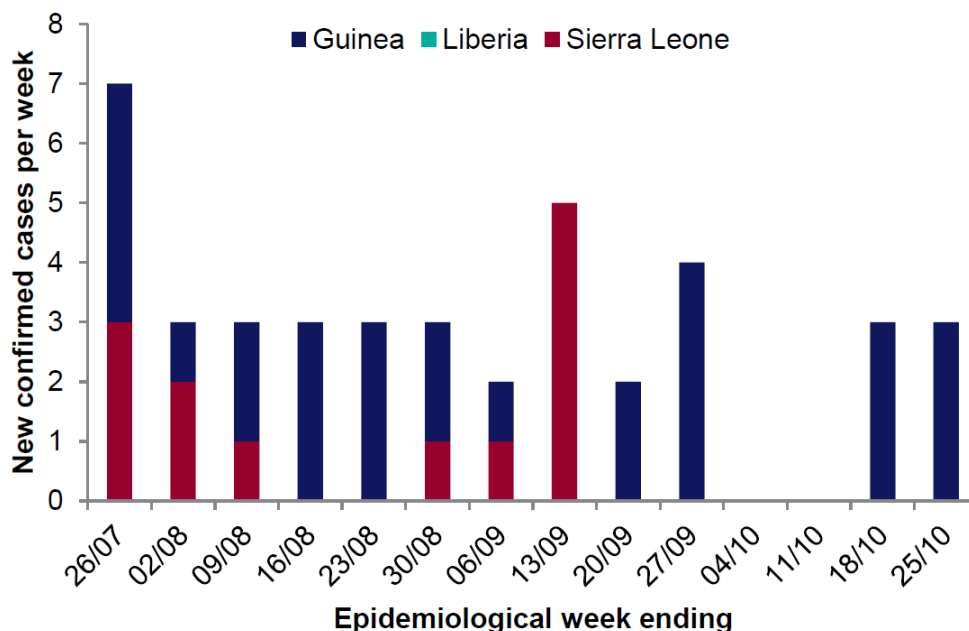


Figure 1. Number of new confirmed cases reported per week (26 June to 25 October 2015) in affected countries in West Africa⁸

INTERNATIONAL CONTROL ACTIVITIES AND FINDINGS

- A small number of new cases continue to be reported in Guinea. The latest case reported in the week ending on 1 November 2015 was the newborn of a 25-year-old mother who, with her other 2 children, was confirmed EVD-positive in the week ending on 28 October 2015. The family cluster generated a large number of contacts. On November 1, there were 382 contacts under follow-up in Guinea, 141 of whom are high-risk. There remains a near-term risk of further cases among both registered and untraced contacts.¹
- Since September 2015, Phase 3 of the Ebola response has been initiated under the coordination of the Interagency Collaboration on Ebola. This phase aims to accurately define and rapidly interrupt all remaining chains of Ebola transmission and identify, manage and respond to the consequences of residual Ebola risks.⁹
- A UK healthcare worker who was EVD-confirmed on 29 December 2014 and subsequently recovered was hospitalized on 6 October 2015 after developing late EVD-related complications (meningitis). As of 13 October 2015, 62 close contacts were identified in the UK for follow-up; 26 contacts have received the rVSV-ZEBOV vaccine. The patient remains in serious but stable condition.^{1,8}
- The [7th meeting of the International Health Regulations \(IHR\) Emergency Committee regarding the Ebola virus disease \(EVD\) outbreak in West Africa](#) took place from 1-3 October 2015. The Committee advised that the EVD outbreak continues to constitute a public health emergency of international concern and outlined temporary recommendations for states with Ebola transmission and all states.
- An interim analysis of the *Ebola ça suffit!* ring vaccination trial in Guinea suggests that the investigational rVSV-ZEBOV Ebola vaccine protects people exposed to EVD.^{4,10} The trial will continue in Guinea, with all rings around confirmed cases now receiving immediate vaccination. Previously, rings were randomly allocated to receive either immediate vaccination or vaccination 21 days after the confirmation of a case. This trial has been extended from Guinea to Sierra Leone where contacts and contacts of contacts will be offered the vaccine.⁸
- CDC has updated their [Interim U.S. Guidance for Monitoring and Movement of Persons with Potential Ebola Virus Exposure](#) – as of September 21, 2015, enhanced entry screening was discontinued for travelers coming to the United States from Liberia; travellers from Liberia are recommended to self-observe until 21 days after departing Liberia. In addition, the WHO [Implementation and management of contact tracing for Ebola virus disease Emergency Guideline](#) has been revised in partnership with the CDC and guides contact tracing in all countries preparing for and managing EVD outbreaks.

Articles of interest

- A [study](#) by investigators from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases suggests that existing RT-PCR assays can detect the presence of Ebola virus RNA in semen samples from survivors who are otherwise deemed disease-free.¹¹
- [Preliminary results](#) of a study into persistence of Ebola virus in body fluids show that some men produce semen samples that test positive for Ebola virus nine months after onset of symptoms.¹²
- A [6-month research report](#), studying the connection between the alleged transmission of EVD from a bat to a human being and forest fragmentation in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, has revealed that forest fragmentation increased the risk of animal to human transmission of the Ebola virus and other diseases.¹³

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADIAN RESPONSE

- The Provincial Ebola Preparedness Task Force continues to meet and has shifted its focus to work on sustainability activities. Guidelines and policies are available on the [Provincial Health Officer's Ebola Web-Site](#).
- BC continues to conduct surveillance of EVD cases and contacts, including returning travellers. There have been no EVD cases in BC. As of November 5, 2015, there were 10 EVD contacts under public health monitoring. Overall, between August 1, 2014 and November 5, 2015, there have been 149 EVD contacts reported in BC. Three of these contacts developed EVD-compatible symptoms; all tested negative for Ebola.

GUIDANCE AND OTHER RESOURCES

National guidance including case definitions, case report form, and guidelines for public health, clinical care and infection control: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/vhf-fvh/ebola-professionals-professionnels-eng.php>

Public Health Agency of Canada travel notices: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/tmp-pmv/notices-avis/index-eng.php>

BCCDC Ebola webpage: <http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/a-z/e/Ebola/default.htm>

BC Provincial Health Office: <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pho/physician-resources-ebola.html>

BC HealthLink: <http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfeatures/ebola-virus-disease.html>

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