

2014 EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD) OUTBREAK

WEEKLY SUMMARY FOR BC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Information current as of November 19, 2014 16:00 hours

OVERVIEW

There has been an ongoing epidemic in West Africa since March 2014 which originated in Guinea and spread to Liberia and Sierra Leone. In Guinea and Liberia, reported incidence has stabilized or decreased nationally but transmission remains intense in certain districts. The number of new cases reported weekly in Sierra Leone remains high. Mali has reported six cases of EVD to date. The separate EVD outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) will be declared over as of November 21, 2014.

EVD CASES (as of November 16, 2014)

Overall: 15 145 cases, 5420 deaths (including 4 cases and 1 death in the USA)

Democratic Republic of Congo (unrelated to the epidemic in West Africa): 66 cases, 49 deaths

COUNTRIES AFFECTED

| Countries with widespread and intense transmission (West Africa)* | Cases** | | Countries with no or limited local transmission | Total cases |
|--|---------|--------------|---|-------------|
| | Total | Past 21 days | | |
| Liberia | 7069 | 532 | USA | 4 |
| Sierra Leone | 6073 | 1394 | Spain | 1 |
| Guinea | 1971 | 315 | Mali | 6 |

* For more details, including epidemic curves, please see the WHO Situation Report – 19 November 2014:

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/situation-reports/en/>

**Cases and deaths in Guinea and Sierra Leone have been reported up to the end of November 16, and up to November 15 in Liberia; data for Liberia are missing for November 16; numbers are subject to change as data become available.

INTERNATIONAL CONTROL ACTIVITIES AND FINDINGS

- The WHO has released a situation assessment highlighting the urgent need for more sensitive and efficient EVD diagnostic tests and has launched two urgent initiatives to stimulate diagnostic innovation and expedite the delivery of better and faster tests to West African countries (<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/ebola/18-november-2014-diagnostics/en/>).
- The WHO published a document addressing the risk of EVD to companion animals, and what, if any role, they may play in EVD transmission (<http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/ebola/household-pets/en/>).
- In Mali, 5 EVD cases (4 deaths) have been reported since November 11 which are unrelated to the initial reported case in the country (a two year old girl who died October 24); 384 contacts associated with these new cases are being monitored. All contacts of the initial case have completed their 21-day follow-up.
- In the USA, a healthcare worker with EVD was transferred from West Africa to the Nebraska Medical Center and later died on November 17 (<http://www.nebraskamed.com/article/240/third-ebola-patient-dies>).
- In Spain, all 83 contacts of a previously infected healthcare worker have completed their 21-day follow-up. Spain will be declared free of EVD 42 days from October 21 if no new cases are reported.
- In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Boende region has been declared EVD free as of November 15 (<http://whodrc-whoafroccmaster.newsweaver.com/drcflyer/16qe27ueoxe>). The WHO will declare the DRC free of Ebola on November 21 if no new cases are reported.

Articles of interest

- A perspective piece in The New England Journal of Medicine highlights challenges of EVD case management in resource-limited settings with a focus on the largest Ebola treatment unit in Monrovia, Liberia (Chertow, 2014).
- Physicians from Emory University Hospital published details of clinical management, which included aggressive supportive measures of hydration, for two EVD cases transferred from Liberia to the USA (Lyon, 2014). In addition, authors from this institution demonstrate successful implementation of their protocol for acute renal replacement therapy in an EVD case with acute kidney injury (Connor, 2014).

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADIAN RESPONSE

- The Provincial Ebola Task Force and working groups continue to address clinical issues, public health issues and communications. The working groups are developing guidelines in-line with provincial and national recommendations to inform emergency preparedness activities.
 - Guidelines have been developed for the use of personal protective equipment, primary care screening and response and first response. A poster has been developed for clinical care settings. All documents are available here: <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pho/physician-resources-ebola.html>
 - A surveillance plan for cases and contacts has been developed by the Public Health WG which includes the use of Panorama. Relevant documents will be posted to the BCCDC and PHO websites in the near future.
- An Ebola Tabletop Exercise occurred at the BCCDC on November 14 which focused on multi-jurisdictional processes involved in contact tracing for a case of Ebola in BC and linking in with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) Ebola Rapid Response Team.
- As of November 16, the Public Health Agency of Canada is advising travellers to Mali to practise special precautions (Level 2) to reduce their risk of exposure to Ebola. Border Services Agents will refer all travellers from affected regions of Mali to a Quarantine Officer for further assessment. For updates on travel health notices from PHAC, please see <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/tmp-pmv/notices-avis/index-eng.php>.
- PHAC Strengthened Public Health Measures can be reviewed at: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?ctr.sj1D=&ctr.mnthndVI=11&mthd=advSrCh&ctr.dpt1D=3150&nid=903029>
- The Canadian Phase I clinical trial for the VSV-EBOV vaccine was launched November 14 in Halifax, Nova Scotia; results are expected early 2015 (http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=904689&_ga=1.56139176.227145580.1415663487).

GUIDANCE AND OTHER RESOURCES

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

BCCDC: <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>

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