

2014-15 EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD) OUTBREAK

MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR BC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

For March 19 to April 15, 2015

OVERVIEW

There has been an ongoing epidemic of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in West Africa since March 2014. New cases reported in Guinea and Sierra Leone are less geographically distributed since March 2015. EVD-related deaths in the community and unsafe burials continue being reported in both countries; however, Sierra Leone has reported substantial decreases in both indicators since early April 2015.

EVD CASES (as of April 12, 2015)¹

Overall: 25 791 cases, 10 600 deaths

COUNTRIES WITH WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE TRANSMISSION (West Africa)*

Country	Cases**				
	Total ¹	Week to 22 March ²	Week to 29 March ³	Week to 5 April ⁴	Week to 12 April ¹
Liberia	10 042	1	0	0	0
Sierra Leone	12 201***	33	25	9	9***
Guinea	3 548	45	57	21	28

* For more details, including most recent epidemic curves, please see the WHO Situation Report – 15 April at: <http://apps.who.int/ebola/en/current-situation/ebola-situation-report>; numbers are subject to change as data become available.

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

***Data until April 11

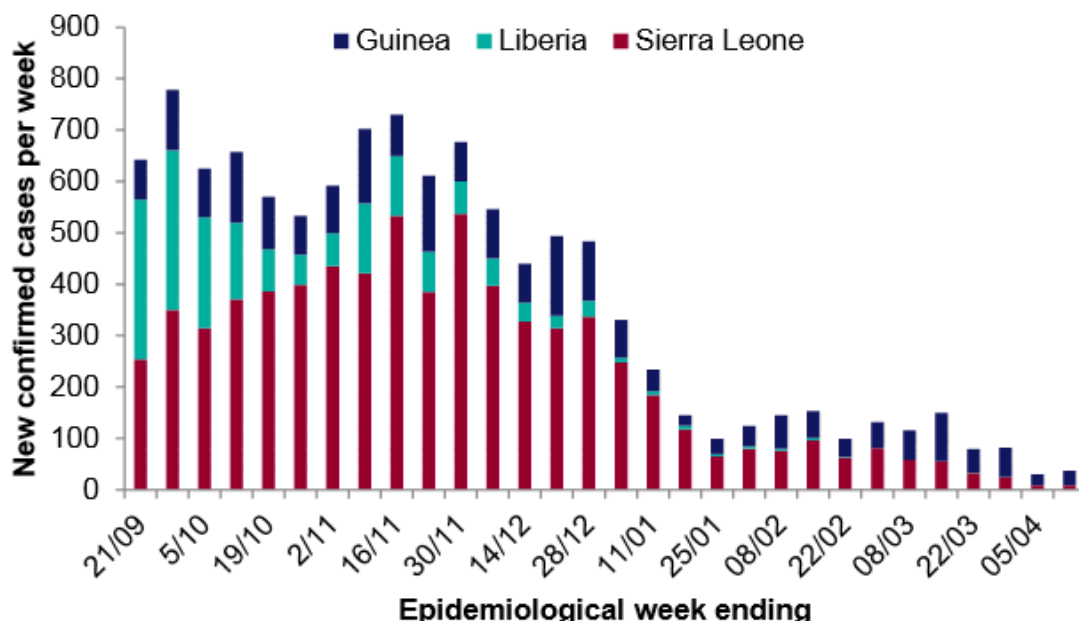


Figure 1. Number of new confirmed cases reported per week (21 September 2014 to 12 April 2015) in countries reporting persistent transmission⁵

INTERNATIONAL CONTROL ACTIVITIES AND FINDINGS

- Liberia reported a new case of EVD on March 20 who later died on March 27. Infection was likely to have occurred following sexual contact involving an Ebola survivor.⁶ Of the 332 contacts

associated with this case, two remain under surveillance in the week to April 12.^{1,4} No new cases have been reported in Liberia.

- With fewer cases over a smaller geographic area, Sierra Leone and Liberia have begun safe decommissioning of surplus facilities while retaining a core national capacity for treatment and rapid response.
- A fifth [Emergency Committee meeting regarding EVD occurred April 9](#) and concluded that EVD in West Africa continues to constitute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and recommended extension of all previous temporary recommendations such as continued exit screening in the three affected countries and avoidance of unnecessary interference with international travel and transport.
- Both cAd3-EBOZ and VSV-ZEBOV [candidate vaccines appear to be safe](#) based on safety results from the Phase II study in Liberia (PREVAIL) sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID); the Canadian developed [VSV-ZEBOV has been shown to be efficacious in Phase I trials](#). In addition, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [announced the launch of the Sierra Leone Trial to Introduce a Vaccine against Ebola \(STRIVE\)](#), which will assess the efficacy of the candidate Ebola vaccine, rVSV-ZEBOV among frontline health workers.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADIAN RESPONSE

- The Provincial Ebola Preparedness Task Force and working groups continue to address clinical and public health issues, as well as manage communications. Guidelines have been developed in-line with provincial and national recommendations to inform emergency preparedness activities. Approved policies and guidelines are currently available on the [Provincial Health Officer's Ebola Web-Site for B.C. Health Care Providers](#).
 - The Task Force held a Provincial EVD Interim Review on March 31.
- BC HealthLink posted an Ebola information page: <http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfeatures/ebola-virus-disease.html>
- BC is conducting surveillance of EVD cases and contacts, including returning travellers. There have been no EVD cases in BC. On April 15, 2015, there were six EVD contacts under public health monitoring. Overall, between August 1, 2014 and April 15, 2015, there have been 53 EVD contacts reported in BC. Three of these developed symptoms; all tested negative for Ebola.

GUIDANCE AND OTHER RESOURCES

National guidance including case definitions, care report form, and public health, clinical care and infection control guidelines:

<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>

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4. World Health Organization. (2015, April 8). Ebola Response Roadmap Situation Report Update. Retrieved from: <http://apps.who.int/ebola/current-situation/ebola-situation-report-8-april-2015>
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6. World Health Organization. (2015, April 10). Statement on the 5th meeting of the IHR Emergency Committee regarding the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Retrieved from: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2015/ihr-ec-ebola/en/>