

## 2014-15 EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD) OUTBREAK

### MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR BC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

For April 16 to May 13, 2015

#### OVERVIEW

There has been an ongoing epidemic of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in West Africa since March 2014. Weekly incidence has decreased since the end of April 2015 in Guinea, however, transmission of EVD continues in a limited number of regions. Unknown sources of infection, deaths in the community, and unsafe burials continue to be reported in this country. There have been no new cases reported in Sierra Leone in the eight days to May 12. Liberia has not had a case since March 27 and was declared EVD-free on May 9. EVD was confirmed on May 12 in a healthcare worker returning from Sierra Leone to Italy.

#### EVD CASES (as of May 10, 2015)<sup>1</sup>

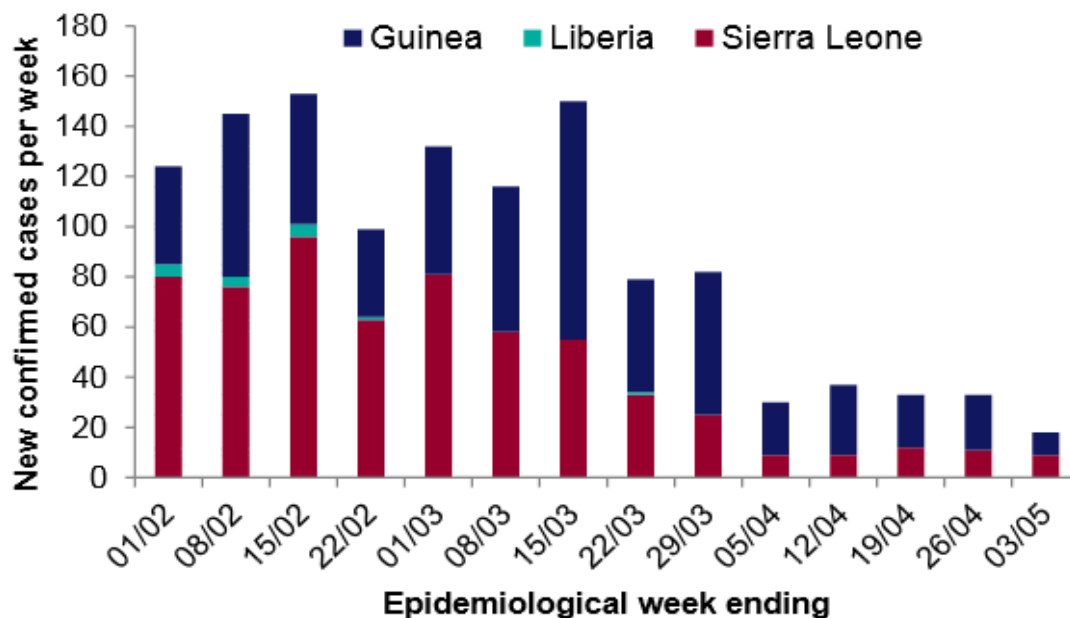
Overall: 26 724 cases, 11 065 deaths

#### COUNTRIES WITH WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE TRANSMISSION (West Africa)\*

Country	Cases**				
	Total <sup>1</sup>	Week to 19 April <sup>2</sup>	Week to 26 April <sup>2</sup>	Week to 6 May <sup>3</sup>	Week to 10 May <sup>1</sup>
Liberia	10 604	0	0	0	-
Sierra Leone	12 523	12	11	9	2
Guinea	3 597	19	22	9	7

\* For more details, including most recent epidemic curves, please see the WHO Situation Report – 13 May 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.



**Figure 1.** Number of new confirmed cases reported per week (1 February to 3 May 2015) in countries reporting persistent transmission<sup>4</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL CONTROL ACTIVITIES AND FINDINGS

- A healthcare worker returning from Sierra Leone to [Italy](#) May 6, developed symptoms May 10 and was tested on May 12, confirming EVD. Healthcare measures are being implemented and contacts have been identified and are being monitored.
- On May 9, [Liberia was declared EVD-free](#), 42 days after the last confirmed case died on March 27. Heightened vigilance is being maintained throughout the country due to the on-going epidemic in neighboring countries.
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has published a [study which evaluated the stability of Ebola virus](#) and found that the virus remains viable in dried and liquid blood up to 5 and 7 days, respectively, and in water for as long as 3 to 6 days depending on the temperature. In addition, CDC published a [report on the possible sexual transmission of EVD](#) alongside a related [brochure for Ebola survivors which outlines safe sex practices](#) to limit transmission. Material on Ebola for [Liberians](#), [Guineans](#), and [Sierra Leoneans](#) living the United States have been developed and provide tips on travel to and hosting visitors from EVD-affected countries.
- [CDC has revised the alert for travel to Liberia](#) from level 3 to level 2 and no longer recommends U.S. residents avoid nonessential travel to the country.
- The World Health Organization has developed [criteria](#) for declaring the end of the Ebola outbreak in the three most affected West African countries. In addition, the WHO has provided [interim advice on the sexual transmission of EVD](#) including semen testing schedule, hygiene, and the provision of counselling and condoms. WHO published the [2015 strategic response plan for the West Africa Ebola outbreak](#) which outlines objectives for the year such as stopping the transmission of the Ebola virus in affected countries, prevent new outbreaks of the Ebola virus in new areas and countries, safely reactivate essential health services and increase resilience, fast-track Ebola research and development, and coordinate national and international Ebola response.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADIAN RESPONSE

- The Provincial Ebola Preparedness Task Force continues to meet 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](#).
  - The BC EVD Contact Investigation and Management Guideline was updated to include management of animal contact and tools to assist in developing a care plan for EVD contacts. The Guideline was reposted on Apr 22.
  - The Recommendations for Isolation Precaution Step Down and Discharge or PUI or Confirmed EVD Patients was posted on Apr 22.
  - A FAQ for HA Staff and HCW was posted on May 11.
- BC is conducting surveillance of EVD cases and contacts, including returning travellers. There have been no EVD cases in BC. On May 13, 2015, there were 10 EVD contacts under public health monitoring. Overall, between August 1, 2014 and May 13, 2015, there have been 65 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>

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

## **REFERENCES**

1. World Health Organization. (2015, May 13). Ebola Response Roadmap Situation Report Update. Retrieved from: <http://apps.who.int/ebola/en/current-situation/ebola-situation-report-13-may-2015>
2. World Health Organization. (2015, April 29). Ebola Response Roadmap Situation Report Update. Retrieved from: <http://apps.who.int/ebola/current-situation/ebola-situation-report-29-april-2015>
3. World Health Organization. (2015, May 8). Ebola Response Roadmap Situation Report Update. Retrieved from: <http://apps.who.int/ebola/en/current-situation/ebola-situation-report-6-may-2015>
4. Public Health England. (2015, May 8). Ebola Epidemiological Update No. 34: 8 May 2015. Retrieved from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ebola-virus-disease-epidemiological-update>