

2014 EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD) OUTBREAK

WEEKLY SUMMARY FOR BC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Information current as of December 10, 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. Reported incidence in Liberia has decreased nationally while incidence has increased slightly in Guinea as transmission remains intense in certain districts. The number of new cases reported weekly in Sierra Leone remains high, yet may have stabilized. Mali has reported no further cases.

EVD CASES (as of December 7, 2014)

Overall: 17 942 cases, 6388 deaths

COUNTRIES AFFECTED

Countries with widespread and intense transmission (West Africa)*			Countries with no or limited local transmission	
Cases				
	Total	Past 21 days	Total cases	
Liberia**	7719	225	USA	4
Sierra Leone	7897	1319	Mali	8
Guinea	2292	321		

* For more details, including epidemic curves, please see the WHO Situation Report – 10 December 2014 at:

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/situation-reports/en/>; numbers are subject to change as data become available.

** Data unavailable for December 4 - 7

INTERNATIONAL CONTROL ACTIVITIES AND FINDINGS

- In Mali, a total of eight EVD cases (six deaths) have been reported; the seven recent cases can be linked to the importation of a case from Guinea into Mali on October 25; 26 contacts are being monitored as cited by the [Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene of Mali](#).
- The WHO has posted information regarding the [risks associated with health-care waste generated from Ebola infected individuals and treatment facilities](#) in low-resource settings, particularly in West Africa. This document highlights considerations for waste management, such as transport, storage, disinfection, and disposal.
- The U.S. CDC has published interim guidance for [airlines](#) with information on stopping ill travelers from boarding, managing and reporting onboard sick travelers, protecting crew and passengers from infection, and cleaning the plane and disinfecting contaminated areas. In addition, screening and communication materials for use in [airports](#) have been developed for countries with and without widespread Ebola transmission alongside National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) [factsheets for airport personnel](#).
- The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) have published their rapid assessment of [risks related to household pets \(dogs and cats\) in contact with Ebola cases in humans](#). This document highlights gaps in available data on the transmission of EVD to and from pets and recommends that risk be assessed jointly by veterinary and public health officials on a case-by-case basis.

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 are currently being developed in-line with provincial and national recommendations to inform emergency preparedness activities.
 - The *Medical Health Officer Ebola Virus Disease Risk Assessment Algorithm* was posted on December 9 on the [Provincial Health Officer's Ebola Website for B.C. Health Care Providers](#).
 - BC is conducting surveillance of EVD cases and contacts, including returning travelers. There have been no EVD cases in BC. There are currently two EVD contacts under public health monitoring.
- PHAC circulated the *Guidance Document - Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to Ebola Virus Disease in Canada through Strengthened Quarantine Measures* (adopted Nov 10 2014) to Chief Medical Officers of Health on December 9 2014.

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>

PHAC 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>

REFERENCES

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014, December 10). *Ebola (Ebola Virus Disease)*. Retrieved from: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/united-states-imported-case.html>
- World Health Organization. (2014, December 10). *Ebola Response Roadmap Situation Report Update*. Retrieved from: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/situation-reports/en/>