

2014 EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD) OUTBREAK

WEEKLY SUMMARY FOR BC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Information current as of December 3, 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 stabilized nationally. 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. Mali has reported eight cases of EVD to date. The outbreak in Spain has been declared over.

EVD CASES (as of November 30, 2014)

Overall: 17 145 cases, 6070 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**	7635	278	USA	4
Sierra Leone	7312	1445	Mali	8
Guinea	2164	306		

* For more details, including epidemic curves, please see the WHO Situation Report – 3 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 November 28 and 29

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 and are unrelated to the initial reported case in the country (a two year old girl who died October 24); 219 contacts associated with the latest cluster of cases are being monitored in Mali.
- The EVD [outbreak in Spain has been declared over](#) by the WHO as of December 2, 2014.
- In the U.S., monitoring of EVD-related contacts (including those who treated a healthcare worker returning to NYC from West Africa) is now [complete](#).
- The CDC has published a [framework](#) and [interim guidance documents](#) for a tiered approach to preparing U.S. hospitals for patients with possible or confirmed EVD.
- The WHO has published information regarding [Ebola virus in semen of men who have recovered from EVD](#) and recommends abstinence for three months or condom use when abstinence is not possible.
- On December 1, the WHO organized a [briefing](#) on Ebola and provided updates on the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) key milestones. The UNMEER targets of isolating and treating 70% of EVD cases and safely burying 70% of EVD-related deaths by December 1 have likely been met in most districts of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. All three countries now have sufficient capacity at a national level to meet both targets, though local variations mean capacity is still insufficient to stop transmission in some areas.

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 BCCDC has begun surveillance of EVD contacts, including returning travelers. There are currently 2 contacts under public health monitoring.
 - The Recommended Personnel for Persons under Investigation, Probable and Confirmed Ebola Virus Disease Cases posted on the [Provincial Health Officer's Ebola Website for B.C. Health Care Providers](#) outlines which health care workers should provide care for patients who are being investigated, or treated for, Ebola virus disease.
- On November 27, 2014 the Government of Canada announced [additional support](#) to help global efforts to fight Ebola in West Africa including the deployment of military medical personnel in Sierra Leone, new additional funding to humanitarian organizations, and the launch of the “[Join the Fight Against Ebola](#)” campaign to recruit Canadian healthcare workers.

GUIDANCE AND OTHER RESOURCES

National guidance including case definitions, 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>

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 Ebola Response Plan: <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pho/physician-resources-ebola.html>

REFERENCES

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014, December 3). *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 3). *Ebola Response Roadmap Situation Report Update*. Retrieved from: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/situation-reports/en/>