

# 2014 EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD) OUTBREAK

## WEEKLY SUMMARY FOR BC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Information current as of November 12, 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. Transmission remains intense in certain districts of both Guinea and Liberia and the number of new cases reported weekly in Sierra Leone remains high. Mali has reported four fatal cases of EVD to date. A separate outbreak was declared in August 2014 in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

### EVD CASES (as of November 9, 2014)

Overall: 14 098 cases, 5160 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)*			Countries with no or limited local transmission	
Cases**				
	Total	Past 21 days	Total cases	
Liberia	6822	466	USA	4
Sierra Leone	5368	1211	Spain	1
Guinea	1878	325	Mali	4

\* For more details, including epidemic curves, please see the WHO Situation Report – 12 November 2014:

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/situation-reports/en/?m=20141112&file=sitreps/20141112/20141112.html>

\*\*Cases and deaths in Guinea and Sierra Leone have been reported up to the end of November 9, and up to November 8 in Liberia; data for Liberia are for past 18 days; numbers are subject to change as data become available.

### INTERNATIONAL CONTROL ACTIVITIES AND FINDINGS

- On November 11, a second fatal EVD case was confirmed in a healthcare worker in Mali which is unrelated to the initial reported case in a two year old girl who died October 24. Two additional probable fatal cases have been reported and intensive contact tracing is under way. Of the 108 contacts of the initial case, 25 have completed their 21-day follow-up.
- In the US, the remaining healthcare worker diagnosed with EVD in New York City has tested negative for EVD twice and been released from hospital. All contacts in the country have completed their 21-day follow-up.
- 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.
- Thirty-one days have passed since the last case tested negative twice in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Once 42 days have passed, the country will be declared free of Ebola if no new cases are reported.
- The WHO has released a new safe and dignified burial protocol: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/notes/2014/ebola-burial-protocol/en/>
- The Travel and Transport Task Force on Ebola virus disease released a statement on November 7 re-iterating that the task force, in-line with the WHO, does not recommend general bans on travel or trade, or general quarantine of travelers arriving from Ebola-affected countries, as measures to contain the outbreak (<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2014/ebola-travel/en/>). This task force was set up in August 2014 to support global efforts to contain the spread of EVD and provide a coordinated international response for travel, trade and tourism.

Members include the WHO, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the International Air transport Association (IATA) among others.

- The European CDC issued a technical report for public health management of healthcare workers returning from Ebola-affected areas outlining current monitoring processes for returning HCWs (<http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/management-healthcare-workers-returning-Ebola-affected-areas.pdf>)

#### Articles of interest

- A WHO-coordinated case series of 37 EVD confirmed cases in Guinea highlights the importance of enhanced levels of clinical assessment, diagnostic testing, and fluid management (Bah, 2014).

### BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADIAN RESPONSE

- The Provincial Ebola Task Force and working groups continue to address clinical issues, including infection control and diagnosis, public health issues and communications. The working groups are developing guidelines in-line with provincial and national recommendations to inform emergency preparedness activities.
- On November 10, the Government of Canada announced strengthened public health measures for arriving travellers from Ebola-affected countries. Travellers from these areas without symptoms will be placed in one of two categories: high risk (history of travel to Ebola-affected country and direct contact with Ebola patients) or low risk (history of travel to Ebola-affected country and no known exposure to EVD). Under the new measures, Quarantine Officers will order travellers with a travel history to Guinea, Sierra Leone or Liberia within the last 21 days to report to a local public health authority in Canada and either self-isolate (high risk travellers) or self-monitor (low risk travellers) for up to 21 days (<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?ctr.sj1D=&ctr.mnthndVI=11&mthd=advSrch&ctr.dpt1D=3150&nid=903029>).
- An Ebola Tabletop Exercise is planned for BC and PHAC public health practitioners on November 14 which will focus on processes involved in contact tracing for a confirmed case of Ebola.
- For updates on travel health notices from PHAC, please see <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/tmp-pmv/notices-avis/index-eng.php>
- The Neglected Global Diseases Initiative at UBC hosted a Symposium for Ebola Treatment and Action on November 13 (<http://ngdi.ubc.ca/?p=10577>)

### 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>

### REFERENCES

- World Health Organization. (2014, November 12). *Ebola Response Roadmap Situation Report Update*. Retrieved from: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/situation-reports/en/?m=20141112&file=sitreps/20141112/20141112.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014, November 12). *Cases of Ebola Diagnosed in the United States*. Retrieved from: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/united-states-imported-case.html>
- Bah, E. I., Lamah, M.-C., Fletcher, T., Jacob, S. T., Brett-Major, D. M., Sall, A. A., ... Fowler, R. A. (2014). Clinical Presentation of Patients with Ebola Virus Disease in Conakry, Guinea. *New England Journal of Medicine*. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1411249 . Available at: [http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1411249?query=featured\\_home](http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1411249?query=featured_home)

This BC Weekly EVD Summary can be found online at:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/a-z/e/Ebola/InfoHealthProfessionals/default.htm>