

# 2014 EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD) OUTBREAK

## WEEKLY SUMMARY FOR BC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Information current as of November 26, 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. In Guinea and Liberia, reported incidence has stabilized or decreased nationally but 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. A separate EVD outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was declared over as of November 21, 2014.

### EVD CASES (as of November 23, 2014)

Overall: 15 935 cases, 5689 deaths (including 4 cases and 1 death in the USA)

### 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	7168	319**	USA	4
Sierra Leone	6599	1339	Spain	1
Guinea	2134	374	Mali	8

\* For more details, including epidemic curves, please see the WHO Situation Report – 26 November 2014 available at: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/situation-reports/en/>; numbers are subject to change as data become available

\*\*Data available for past 20 days only

### INTERNATIONAL CONTROL ACTIVITIES AND FINDINGS

- In Mali, a total of eight EVD cases (6 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); 288 contacts associated with the latest cluster of cases are being monitored in Mali and an additional 300 are being monitored in Guinea. All contacts of the initial case in Mali have completed their 21-day follow-up.
- The CDC has published information on the [survivability of Ebola virus in medical waste](#) as well as interim guidance for [handling untreated sewage](#) from individuals with EVD in the US. In addition, guidelines have been provided for [management of Ebola in West African healthcare settings](#).
- 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.

### Articles of interest

- Preliminary results from phase I clinical trials of the Ebola virus cAd3-EBO vaccine involving 20 healthy adults were presented in the *New England Journal of Medicine*; a dose-related immune response was detected among participants and no major safety concerns were noted (Ledgerwood, 2014).
- A modelling study evaluating the effectiveness of WHO-recommended, nonpharmaceutical public health interventions (e.g. transmission precautions for health care workers, sanitary burial, isolation of infectious Ebola patients, and contact-tracing with follow-up and quarantine) on the growth of the outbreak in Liberia was published; results suggest that a concerted effort using all four recommendations are required to limit the epidemic (Panday, 2014).

## BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADIAN RESPONSE

- The Provincial Ebola 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.
  - A provincial surveillance plan for EVD contacts and cases has been developed by the Public Health working group which includes the use of Panorama as a data collection tool. The plan, as well as the contact investigation and monitoring forms, can be found on the BCCDC Ebola webpage, under [Information for Healthcare Professionals](#).
  - The Task Force has released a document identifying and describing the roles of BC acute care facilities in the care of EVD cases. Facilities have been classified as type 1 (assess, stabilize and transfer patients), type 2 (confirm and provide short-term treatment) and type 3 (provide ongoing care). This can be found at the [Provincial Health Officer's Ebola Web-Site for B.C. Health Care Providers](#).
- [Travel health notice updates](#) are available through the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).
- A factsheet on [PHAC Strengthened Public Health Measures](#) can be reviewed through the Government of Canada.

## 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>

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

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