

b Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak: update

Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak: situation update

As at 21 June 2015, a total of 27 443 (laboratory-confirmed, probable, and suspected) cases of EVD has been reported in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, with 11 207 reported deaths. The outbreak in Liberia was declared over on 9 May. As at 09 May 2015, a cumulative total cases of 10 666 EVD cases (3 151 laboratory-confirmed, 1 879 probable and 5 636 suspected) including 4 806 deaths had been reported in Liberia. At present the outbreak continues in Guinea and Sierra Leone. However the number of new cases reported has declined to relatively low levels.

A confirmed imported EVD case was reported in Italy on 12 May 2015. The case-patient is a volunteer healthcare worker who travelled from Sierra Leone to Italy on 7 May 2015 and three days later developed symptoms. Following confirmation of Ebola on 12 May 2015, the case-patient was transferred to the National Institute for Infectious

Diseases in Rome. Nineteen associated contacts were monitored and all have completed the 21 days follow-up period. The patient was confirmed EVD negative, and clinically well on 9th June 2015.

Countries with widespread and intense transmission (Guinea and Sierra Leone)

As at 21 June 2015, a cumulative total of 16 777 cases (laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected) including 6 352 deaths with a case fatality rate of 38% has been reported in Guinea and Sierra Leone. In addition, cases have been reported from a widening geographical area. The continued occurrence of cases arising from unknown sources of infection and cases detected after post-mortem testing of community deaths, highlights challenges faced in the finding and elimination of transmission chains. A summary of case numbers and deaths reported is shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Number of Ebola virus disease cases and deaths in Guinea and Sierra Leone as at 21 June 2015

Country	Total cases (laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected)	Total deaths	Case fatality rate	Number of cases among healthcare workers (number of deaths)
Guinea	3 718	2 473	67%	189 (94)
Sierra Leone	13059	3 928	30%	305 (221*)
Total	16 777	6 401	38%	494 (315)

Source: World Health Organization Global Alert and Response: Ebola situation report of 7 June 2015 (www.who.int) . *Data as at 17 February

Situation in South Africa

As at 25 June 2015 there have been no EVD cases in South Africa associated with the current outbreaks in West Africa. In addition, there are no suspected cases of EVD in South Africa at present. The risk of Ebola being introduced into South Africa still remains low. However a high index of suspicion is necessary given on-going EVD transmission in West Africa.

Testing for viral haemorrhagic fever viruses (including Ebola virus) in South Africa is only available at the NICD. EVD testing is neither warranted nor useful for persons that are not

suffering from a clinical illness compatible with EVD, even in the event of compatible travel histories. The tests cannot be used to determine if the patient has been exposed to the virus and may develop the disease later.

Requests for testing (with a detailed clinical, travel and exposure history) should be directed to the NICD Hotline at 082 883 9920 (a 24-hour service, for healthcare professionals only).

Source: Division of Public Health Surveillance and Response, NICD-NHLS