

## b Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak

### Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak: situation update as at 9th August 2015

The outbreak continues in the affected countries. However, case incidence continues to decline in Guinea and Sierra Leone. Nonetheless, still of concern is the detection of new cases from unknown chains of transmission. In Guinea (in the past 21 days), transmission has been occurring in Conakry and two other prefectures (Forecariah and Coyah), while in Sierra Leone, mostly in Tonkolili and Free Town (Western Area Urban). In Liberia, since the re-emergence of EVD cases on 29 June 2015 in Margibi County, no new laboratory-confirmed cases have been reported since 12 July 2015. The last EVD patients tested negative twice on 23 July 2015 and all contacts have completed their 21-day follow-up period.

As at 9 August 2015, a cumulative total of 27,929 cases (laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected) including 11,283 deaths with a case fatality rate of 40%, has been reported in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. A summary of case numbers and deaths reported is shown in Table 1. Although the outbreak has been widespread with intense transmission, not all prefectures in these countries were affected. Sustained transmission of infection occurred at community level for a prolonged time in numerous regions and towns. The number of cases differed within regions with certain districts accounting for the highest proportion of total cases reported. In Guinea and Liberia, people aged 15-44 years are about four

times more likely to be affected than children aged <15 years and three times more likely to be affected in Sierra Leone. Cumulative incidence increases with increasing age to high levels in persons aged  $\geq 45$  years. Rates of disease incidence are similar among males and females. Case fatality rates (CFR) vary from country to country with the highest overall CFR recorded in Guinea.

#### Situation in South Africa

As at 13 August 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

**Table 1. Number of Ebola virus disease cases and deaths in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (as at 9 August 2015)**

Country	Total cases (laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected)	Total deaths	Case fatality rate	Number of cases among healthcare workers (Number of deaths)
Guinea	3 787	2 524	67%	195 (99)
Sierra Leone	13 470	3 951	29%	307 (221*)
Liberia (as at 9 May)	10 666	4 806	45%	378 (192)
Liberia (from 29 June)	6	2	33%	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27 929</b>	<b>11 283</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>880 (512)</b>

Source: World Health Organization Global Alert and Response: Ebola situation report of 12 August 2015 ([www.who.int](http://www.who.int)); \*Data as at 17 February