

4 **INTERNATIONAL OUTBREAKS OF IMPORTANCE TO SOUTH AFRICAN TRAVELLERS AND HEALTHCARE WORKERS**

Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak: update

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The EVD outbreak in Liberia was declared over on 09 May 2015, after 42 complete days elapsed since the burial of the last confirmed EVD case. Active surveillance is being maintained so that any new case/s of Ebola can be rapidly identified should they occur. As at 09 May 2015, a cumulative total 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, but the number of new cases reported has declined to relatively low numbers.

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 07 May 2015 and developed symptoms three days later. Following confirmation of Ebola on 12 May 2015, the case-patient was transferred to the National Institute for Infectious Diseases in Rome.

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

As at 24 May 2015, a cumulative total of 16 347 cases (laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected) including 6 328 deaths with a case fatality rate of 39% has been reported in Guinea and Sierra Leone. A summary of case numbers and deaths reported is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of Ebola virus disease cases and deaths in Guinea and Sierra Leone as at 24 May 2015

Country	Total cases (laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected)	Total deaths	Case fatality rate	Number of cases among healthcare workers (number of deaths)
Guinea	3 641	2 420	66%	187 (94)
Sierra Leone	12 706	3 908	31%	304 (221*)
Total	16 347	6 328	39%	491 (315)

Source: World Health Organization Global Alert and Response: Ebola situation report of 27 May 2015 (www.who.int). *Data as at 17 February

Situation in South Africa

As at 26 May 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. 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