

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

Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak: update

Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak: situation update

The outbreak continues in the three affected countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone). However the number of new cases reported has declined to relatively low numbers.

1. Countries with widespread and intense transmission

As at 19 April 2015, a cumulative total of 26 044 EVD cases (laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected) including 10 808 deaths with a case fatality rate of 41% has been reported in Guinea,

Liberia and Sierra Leone. A summary of case numbers and deaths reported is shown in Table 1.

As at 19 April 2015, the number of new cases reported in the previous 21 days for Guinea (n=70) and Sierra Leone (n=30) are still cause for concern as it represents ongoing EVD transmission in the community.

In Liberia, however, the last confirmed case died on 27 March 2015 and was buried on 28 March 2015. Forty-two days will have elapsed since burial of the last confirmed case on 09 May 2015; the outbreak in Liberia will then be declared over should no cases be identified in the interim.

Table 1: Number of Ebola virus disease cases and deaths in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone as at 5 April 2015

Country	Total cases (laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected)	Total deaths	Case fatality rate	Number of cases among healthcare workers (number of deaths)
Guinea	3 565	2 358	66%	187 (94)
Liberia	10 212	4 573	45%	375 (189)
Sierra Leone	12 267	3 877	32%	303 (221)
Total	26 044	10 808	41%	865 (504)

Source: World Health Organization Global Alert and Response: Ebola situation report of 22 April 2015 (www.who.int).

2. Countries with an initial case or cases, or with localised transmission

To date six countries (Nigeria, Senegal, Spain, United States of America, Mali and United Kingdom) have reported localised transmission or imported a case or cases from Guinea/Liberia/Sierra Leone. Nonetheless the EVD outbreaks in these countries have been declared over.

Situation in South Africa

As at 23 April 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