

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

Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreaks: situation update

Additional cases and deaths continued to be reported in all three affected countries with widespread and intense transmission (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone). As at 13 December 2014, a cumulative total of 18 498 EVD cases (laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected) including 6 856 deaths, have been reported in five currently affected countries (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, United States of America, Mali) and three previously affected countries (Nigeria, Senegal and Spain).

Countries with widespread and intense transmission

As at 13 December 2014, a cumulative total of 18 464 EVD cases (laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected) including 6 841 deaths with a case fatality rate of 37% have been reported in the current EVD outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra

Leone. A summary of case numbers and deaths reported is shown in Table 2.

Countries with an initial case or cases or with localised transmission

To date five countries have reported localised transmission or an imported case or cases from Guinea/Liberia/Sierra Leone: Nigeria, Senegal, Spain, United States of America (USA) and Mali. In Nigeria, there were 20 cases with eight deaths while Senegal and Spain reported one case each with no deaths. The EVD outbreaks in Senegal, Nigeria and Spain were declared over on 17 October, 19 October and 2 December 2014 respectively. In Mali, the most recent cases in Bamako are not related to the first EVD-positive case-patient who died in Kayes on 24 October 2014. Table 3 summarises the number of EVD cases and deaths in Mali and the USA.

Table 2. Number of Ebola virus disease cases and deaths in Liberia (as at 9 December), Guinea and Sierra Leone as at 13 December 2014

Country	Total cases (laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected)	Total deaths	Case fatality rate	Number of cases among healthcare workers (number of deaths)*
Guinea	2 394	1 518	63%	121 (62)
Liberia	7 797	3 290	42%	363 (174)
Sierra Leone	8 273	2 033	24%	138 (106)
Totals	18 464	6 841	37%	622 (342)

* Data as at 3 December 2014 for Liberia and 7 December 2014 for Guinea and Sierra Leone

Table 3. Number of Ebola virus disease cases and deaths in USA and Mali as at 13 December 2014

Country	Total cases (laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected)	Total deaths	Number of cases among healthcare workers (number of deaths)*
USA	4	1	3 (0)
Mali	8	6	2 (2)

Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The EVD outbreak in DRC was declared over on 21 November 2014. This outbreak had no association with the on-going outbreak that originated in West Africa affecting Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Mali.

Situation in South Africa

As at 16 December 2014 there have been no cases of Ebola virus disease in South Africa associated with the current outbreaks in West Africa. There are no suspected cases of EVD in South Africa at present. Of continual concern is the possibility of imported EVD cases. The suspected EVD case definition and risk assessment of suspected EVD cases can be accessed on the NICD website (www.nicd.ac.za). Further information on EVD for healthcare professionals and the general public are also available on the website. In addition, EVD situation updates are regularly posted on the website as well.

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 and Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases, NICD-NHLS