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

### a *Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreaks: situation update*

Following the WHO Ebola Response Roadmap classification, countries reporting EVD cases associated with the outbreak that originated in West Africa fall into two categories: those with widespread and intense transmission, and those with (or that have had) an initial case or cases, or with localised transmission.

#### 1. Countries with widespread and intense transmission

Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone continue to report new cases and deaths. The incidence of new cases continues to increase in Sierra Leone, whilst the incidence of new cases in Guinea and Liberia is stable at present. Cumulative numbers of cases, deaths are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1. Number of Ebola virus disease cases and deaths in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone as at 16 November 2014**

Country	Total cases (laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected)	Total deaths	Case fatality rate	Number of cases among healthcare workers
Guinea	1 971	1 192	60%	95
Liberia	7 069	2 964	42%	341
Sierra Leone	6 073	1 250	21%	132
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15 113</b>	<b>5 406</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>568</b>

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

Five countries have reported a case or cases imported from Guinea/Liberia/Sierra Leone: Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Spain, and the United States of America (Table 2). Senegal reported a single

imported case with no further transmission, whilst the other four countries reported additional cases following localised transmission. Nigeria and Senegal have completed the required 42-day follow up since their last reported cases and their outbreaks have been declared over.

**Table 2. Number of Ebola virus disease cases and deaths in countries with imported cases or localised transmission as at 16 November 2014**

Country	Outbreak status	Total cases (laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected)	Number of cases among healthcare workers	Total deaths
Senegal	Declared over on 17 October 2014	1	0	0
Nigeria	Declared over on 19 October 2014	20	11	8
Spain	Follow-up period not yet completed	1	1	0
United States of America	Follow-up period not yet completed	4	3	1
Mali	First case reported on 24 October 2014	6	2	5

### EVD outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

This outbreak is unrelated to the outbreak that originated in West Africa. This is the seventh confirmed EVD outbreak in DRC, close to where the virus was first identified in 1976 in Yambuku near the Ebola River. As at 11 November 2014, a cumulative total of 66 EVD cases (38 confirmed, 28 probable) including eight among healthcare workers have been reported. A total of 49 deaths (CFR 74%) were reported in the outbreak. The outbreak is expected to be declared over within the next few days.

### Situation in South Africa

As at 18 November 2014 there have been no cases of Ebola virus disease in South Africa associated with the current outbreaks in West Africa and DRC. 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](http://www.nicd.ac.za)). 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).

EVD situation updates are regularly posted on the NICD website ([www.nicd.ac.za](http://www.nicd.ac.za)). Further information on EVD for healthcare professionals and the general public are also available on the website.

**Source:** Division of Public Health Surveillance and Response and Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases, NICD-NHLS