



## CONTENTS

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

Ebola virus disease outbreak: update 1

### **2 ZOOBOTIC AND VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES**

a Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever 3

b Rabies 4

c Odyssean malaria 5

### **VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES**

a Measles 5

b Rubella 6

### **4 SEASONAL DISEASES**

a Seasonal influenza 7

b Meningococcal disease 9

### **5 ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE**

Update on carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae 10

### **6 BEYOND OUR BORDERS**

12

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

#### **a Ebola virus disease outbreak: update**

Since the last update (access updates on [www.nicd.ac.za](http://www.nicd.ac.za)), additional cases and deaths continued to be reported in all three affected West African countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone). Of growing international concern is the possibility of imported EVD cases, given that the outbreak shows no signs of abating, and persistent widespread transmission continues in all three countries.

#### **Situation update: West Africa**

As at 22 October 2014, a cumulative total of 10 135 EVD cases (laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected) including 4 920 deaths with a case fatality rate of 49% has been reported to the World Health Organization for the current EVD outbreak in West Africa (Table 1). The outbreak shows no signs of abating in the three affected countries.

#### **Situation update: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

The recent outbreak in DRC is unrelated to the current outbreak in West Africa (affecting Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia) or the focal outbreak in Nigeria (following an imported case from Liberia). 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 21 October 2014, a cumulative total of 67 EVD cases (38 confirmed, 28 probable and 1 suspected), including eight healthcare workers, has been reported. In addition, 49 deaths (CFR 73%), including the eight healthcare workers, were also reported.

**Table 1. Number of Ebola virus disease cases and deaths in West Africa as at 22 October 2014#**

Country	Total cases (laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected)	Total deaths	Case fatality rate
Guinea*	1 553	926	60%
Liberia*	4 665	2 705	58%
Sierra Leone*	3 896	1 281	33%
Nigeria**	20	8	40%
Senegal**	1	0	0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10 135</b>	<b>4 920</b>	<b>49%</b>

#Number of cases and deaths in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone as at 18, 21 and 22 October respectively; \*Countries with widespread and intense transmission; \*\* EVD outbreaks in Senegal and Nigeria declared over on 17 and 19 October 2014 respectively

### Situation update: countries reporting imported cases ex-West Africa

To date, four countries have reported imported cases ex-West Africa: Nigeria, Senegal, the United States of America (USA) and Mali (Table 2). The most recent imported cases have been reported on 23 October 2014 from Mali (a two-year-old case-patient who travelled from Guinea to Mali, and was hospitalised in Kayes on 22 October 2014) and the USA (a volunteer healthcare worker who became symptomatic six days after returning from West Africa).

In addition, several international volunteer healthcare workers assisting in the West African EVD outbreak response have been repatriated back to their countries of origin for medical care after developing EVD. Three countries have reported autochthonous cases of EVD (through human-to-human transmission) outside of West Africa since the outbreak began:

- Nigeria

Following an imported case (a Liberian national who travelled to Lagos on 20 July 2014), local transmission resulted in a focal outbreak amongst

**Table 2. Imported Ebola virus disease cases ex-West Africa as at 24 October 2014**

Country reporting imported case/s	Outbreak status	Number of case/s reported	Date imported case hospitalised	Country where imported case exposed to EVD	Case details
Nigeria	Outbreak declared over on 19 October 2014	1	20 July 2014	Liberia	Liberian national. Exposure to ill persons in Liberia. Symptomatic on arrival to Lagos.
Senegal	Outbreak declared over on 17 October 2014	1	20 August 2014	Guinea	Guinean national. Exposure to ill persons in Guinea. Developed symptoms 3 days after arriving in Senegal.
United States of America	Contact monitoring in progress	2	28 September 2014	Liberia	Liberian national. Exposure to ill persons in Liberia. Developed symptoms 4 days after arriving in USA.
			23 October 2014	Guinea	USA national. Volunteer healthcare worker exposed to ill persons in Guinea. Developed symptoms 6 days after return to USA.
Mali	Contact monitoring in progress	1	22 October 2014	Guinea	Guinean national. Preliminary information: likely exposure to ill persons in Guinea. Developed symptoms approximately 10 days after arriving in Mali.

healthcare workers and contacts, with 20 EVD cases including 8 deaths in Lagos and Port Harcourt. This outbreak was formally declared over on 19 October 2014.

- Spain

Following the repatriation of a known EVD patient (a Spanish missionary doctor) from Sierra Leone to Madrid on 22 September 2014 for medical care, a healthcare worker who had nursed the patient became infected.

- United States of America

Following an imported case (a Liberian national who travelled to Dallas, Texas on 20 September 2014 and was hospitalised on 28 September 2014) two healthcare workers who had nursed the patient became infected.

### **Situation in South Africa**

Given the frequency of travel between southern and western African countries, there is a risk of EVD cases being imported into South Africa. However the overall risk of Ebola being introduced into the country remains low. Individuals, in particular healthcare workers involved in the outbreak response, may also travel to and present in South Africa for medical care. It is critical to maintain a very high index of suspicion for such cases, and it is extremely important that a detailed history regarding travel and level of contact with suspected/confirmed EVD cases be obtained. However, be mindful that exposure history may not be easily forthcoming; therefore, healthcare workers should always be on alert for any ill person that has travelled to countries with widespread and intense transmission, and ensure that they adhere to appropriate preventive measures. Travel from a country not affected by the outbreak but which has reported imported EVD cases only constitutes a risk when there has been subsequent local transmission of Ebola virus within that country. Even though the risk of importation to South Africa is considered low, surveillance for detection of EVD has been strengthened. This is of utmost importance as early detection of cases will ensure that appropriate prevention and control measures are instituted timeously to prevent further spread.

As at 24 October 2014 there have been no cases of EVD 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.

The case definition for a suspected EVD case is as follows:

Any person\* presenting with an acute onset of fever ( $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) plus any of the following additional symptoms: severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, or unexplained haemorrhage who has:

- ◊ Visited or been resident in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo or another country reporting imported cases with local transmission\*\*, in the 21 days prior to onset of illness

AND

- ◊ Had direct contact with or cared for suspected/confirmed EVD cases in the 21 days prior to onset of illness

\*Healthcare workers in particular are at high risk

\*\*Refer to EVD situation reports posted on the NICD website ([www.nicd.ac.za](http://www.nicd.ac.za))

for updated information on countries reporting EVD cases

### Laboratory testing

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