

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

### Update on Ebola virus disease

All three affected countries with widespread and intense transmission (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) continue to report new cases and deaths. However, Liberia is reporting low numbers of new confirmed EVD cases. The imported EVD case-patient who was confirmed on 29 December 2014 in Glasgow, United Kingdom (UK) was discharged from hospital on 24 January 2015. The case-patient tested negative twice for EVD on 23 January 2015.

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

As at 15 February 2015, a cumulative total of 23 218 EVD cases (laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected) including 9 365 deaths with a case fatality rate of 40% has been reported in Guinea, Liberia 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 Liberia (as at 12 February), Guinea and Sierra Leone as at 15 February 2015**

Country	Total cases (laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected)	Total deaths	Case fatality rate	Number of cases among healthcare workers (number of deaths)
Guinea	3 108	2 057	66%	167 (88)
Liberia	9 007	3 900	43%	372 (179)
Sierra Leone	11 103	3 408	31%	294 (221)
<b>Total</b>	<b>23 218</b>	<b>9 365</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>833 (488)</b>

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

To date six countries (Nigeria, Senegal, Spain, United States of America (USA), Mali and UK) have reported localised transmission or imported a case

or cases from Guinea/Liberia/Sierra Leone. The EVD outbreaks in Nigeria, Senegal, Spain, USA and Mali have been declared over. Table 2 summarises the status of the outbreak in the UK.

**Table 2. Number of Ebola virus disease cases and deaths in the United Kingdom as at 15 February 2015**

Country	Total cases (laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected)	Total deaths	Number of cases among healthcare workers (number of deaths)
United Kingdom	1	0	1 (0)

#### Situation in South Africa

As at 15 February 2015 there have been no EVD cases in South Africa associated with the current outbreak 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 remains low.

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 a compatible travel history. The tests cannot be used to determine if a person 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