

Department of Defense
Armed Forces Health Surveillance
West Africa Ebola Surveillance Summary
(15 OCT 2015)



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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (AFHS)

West Africa Ebola Surveillance Summary #121

15 OCT 2015 (next report 22 OCT 2015)



CASE REPORT: According to [WHO on 14 OCT](#), between 5 OCT and 11 OCT there were no new confirmed Ebola virus disease (EVD) cases in West Africa. However, after the WHO reporting period ended Guinea reported one new confirmed case in Conakry on 13 OCT; the first new case in Guinea since 27 SEP. In Guinea, 150 contacts are being followed; all contacts have completed follow-up in Sierra Leone. The total count of 28,492 cases (11,312 deaths) includes past confirmed, suspected, and probable cases and all deaths from Sierra Leone, Liberia, Italy, Senegal, Nigeria, United Kingdom, Spain, Mali, and the United States. Liberia is in a 90-day period of heightened surveillance after being declared Ebola virus transmission-free on 3 SEP. On 26 SEP Sierra Leone started a 42-day countdown to transmission-free status, on or about 8 NOV. As a result of the consistently low incidence in limited geographic areas, WHO considers the epidemic to be in a [phase 3 response](#), which implements specific actions to achieve and maintain zero virus transmission.

A Scottish nurse who recovered from EVD in JAN is reported to be in [critical condition](#) in a London hospital following an [apparent relapse](#) of the disease. Glasgow health authorities are tracking 58 close contacts, all of whom have been offered the VSV-EBOV vaccine.

A study published online in the 15 OCT [New England Journal of Medicine](#) shows Ebola virus RNA persisted in the semen of 93 male EVD survivors for months after recovery. Ebola virus RNA was found in 65% of subjects after 4 to 6 months and in 26% after 7 to 9 months. The authors do not know if a positive finding is associated with infection risk.

On 1 OCT, WHO's seventh [Emergency Committee meeting](#) on the EVD outbreak agreed that the outbreak continued to constitute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and proposed new temporary recommendations that would supersede those previously issued.

DoD RESPONSE: On 10 AUG, the Deputy Secretary of Defense signed a memorandum declaring that DoD needs to maintain the capability to operate in an infectious disease environment in the future. The memorandum extends for at least one year following the 30 JUN 2015 end of OUA DoD selected policies and EVD-related responsibilities, including those related to health surveillance, personal protective equipment, medical treatment for deployed DoD personnel, and transport of EVD-exposed or infected DoD personnel. The documents are available at the DoD Biological Preparedness [SharePoint site](#); open the Ebola folder for the memo and supporting documents. DoD personnel continue to provide support to the Liberian Institute of Biomedical Research.

DIAGNOSTICS AND MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES: Despite declining EVD cases, on 9 OCT [Johnson and Johnson](#) announced it will start trials of its prime boost vaccine regimen in Sierra Leone. Visit the WHO's [Ebola vaccines, therapies, and diagnostics](#) page for information about clinical trials and evaluations of potential vaccines, therapies, and diagnostics for Ebola virus disease.

USG AND GLOBAL RESPONSE: Current information and guidance is available at the [CDC](#) and [WHO](#) Ebola web sites.

TRAVEL ADVISORY: CDC is maintaining its [Warning - Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel](#) advisory for Guinea and Sierra Leone. On 3 SEP, Liberia was lowered to [Watch - Level 1, Practice Usual Precautions](#). The State Department issued an [updated travel notice](#) for West Africa on 21 SEP when CDC announced that [enhanced entry screening was discontinued](#) for travelers coming to the U.S. from Liberia. These travelers will no longer be funneled through the U.S. airports that are [conducting enhanced entry screening](#) (JFK, Newark Liberty, Washington Dulles, Chicago O'Hare, and Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson). CDC recommends that travelers from Liberia self-monitor for fever or other symptoms of Ebola for 21 days after departure. Recommendations and procedures have not changed for travelers entering the United States from Guinea or Sierra Leone. Personal health check kits (CARE kits) are still being distributed to these travelers. CDC continues to recommend that state public health departments implement active post-arrival monitoring for 21 days along with other movement restrictions based on a traveler's exposure risk category using CDC definitions from travelers from Sierra Leone or Guinea.

Text updated from the previous report will be printed in red; items in (+xx) represent the change in number from the previous AFHS summary (8 OCT 2015).

All information has been verified unless noted otherwise. Sources include NCMI, WHO, HHS, CDC, DoS, and health agencies in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

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Latest Available Ebola Case Counts in or Related to West Africa, 2014-2015

Country (as of date)	EVD Cases All / Lab Confirmed	Deaths All / Lab Confirmed	EVD Cases in HCW / Deaths	Contacts Being Followed
Guinea (13 OCT)	3,802 (-2) / 3,345 (+1)	2,534 / 2,081	196 / 100	150
Sierra Leone (11 OCT)	13,982 (+37) / 8,704	3,955 / 3,587	307 / 221	0
Liberia (30 AUG)	10,672 / 3,157	4,808 / NA	378 / 192	0
Italy (20 JUL)	1 / 1***	0 / 0	1 / 0***	0
United Kingdom (22 JAN 2015)	1 / 1***	0 / 0	1 / 0***	0
United States (4 DEC 2014)	4 / 4***	1 / 1	3 / 0	0
Mali (21 DEC 2014)	8 / 7	6 / 5	2 / 2	0
Nigeria (17 SEP 2014)	20 / 19	8 / 7	11 / 5	0
Senegal (20 SEP 2014)	1 / 1*	0 / 0	0 / 0	0
Spain (2 DEC 2014)	1 / 1	0 / 0	1 / 0	0
Total (13 OCT)	28,492 (+35) / 15,239 (+1)	11,312 / 5,683[†]	900 / 520	150

[†]Excluding Liberia / *Imported from Liberia / **1 imported from Guinea / ***Imported from Sierra Leone / NA = Not Available.

Shaded rows represent countries which have been declared Ebola transmission-free by WHO.

The total number of cases, which includes suspect, probable and confirmed cases, is subject to change due to reclassification, retrospective investigation, consolidation of cases and laboratory data, and enhanced surveillance.

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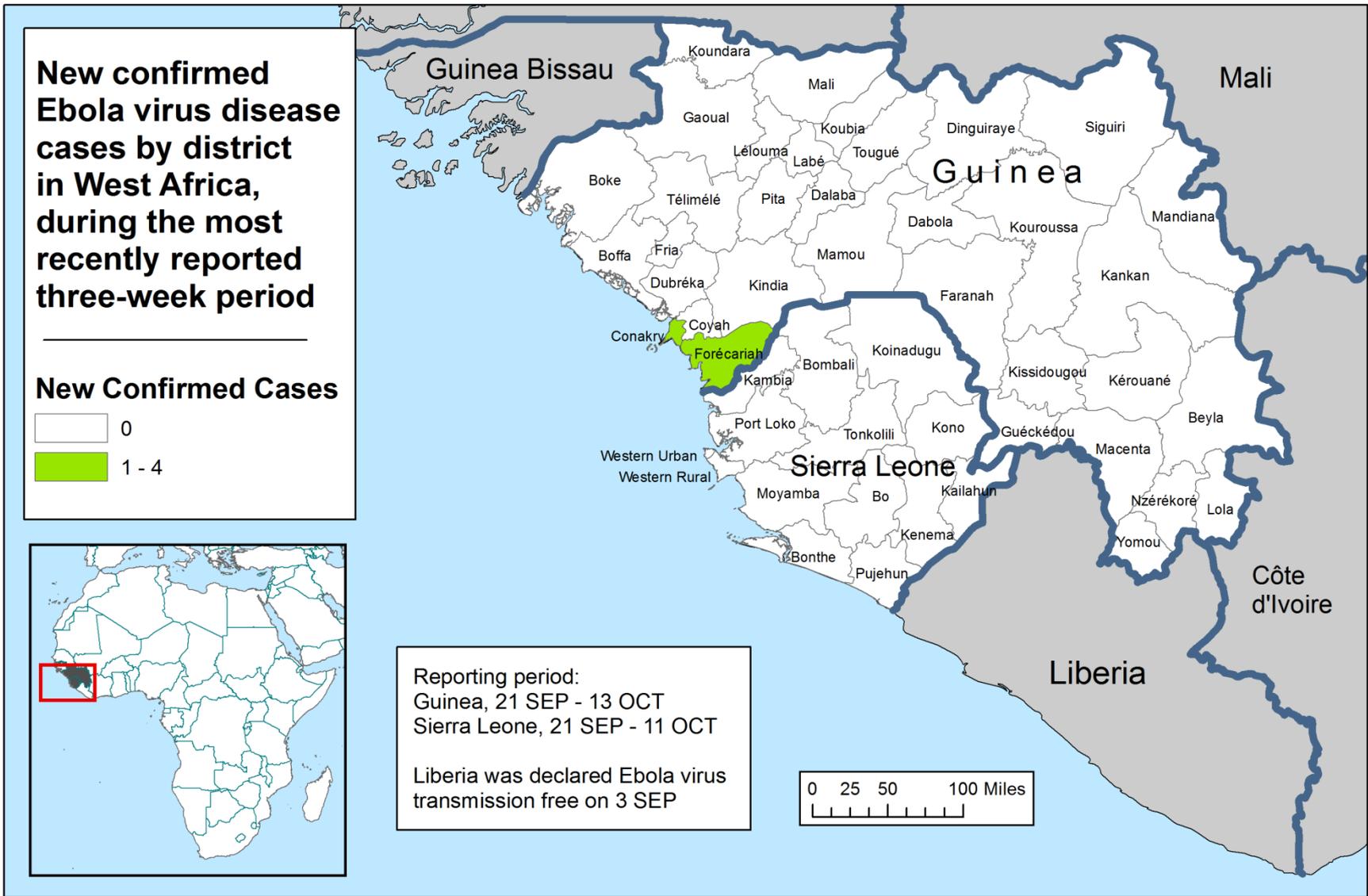
All information has been verified unless noted otherwise. Sources include WHO, CDC, and health agencies in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mali, and the UK.



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All information has been verified unless noted otherwise. Sources include WHO, and the Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone Ministries of Health.

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Additional Resources and Media Reports

Ebola Web Sites

- [WHO](#)
- [CDC](#)
- [Liberia MOH](#)
- [Sierra Leone MOH](#)
- [Humanitarian Response \(West Africa\)](#) Access to MOH, WHO, UN, and other reports
- [AFHS Guidelines for Detecting and Reporting DoD Cases of Ebola Virus](#)
- [USAMRIID](#)
- [State Department Travel Site](#)
- [USAID Ebola Site](#)
- [DoD News](#)

Information and News

- [Ailing Ebola nurse in UK may be rare case of relapse](#) (ABC News, 15 OCT)
- [Ebola Situation Report - 14 October 2015](#) (WHO, 14 OCT)
- [Ebola nurse Pauline Cafferkey now 'critically ill'](#) (BBC News, 14 OCT)
- [J&J starts vaccine trial in Sierra Leone, even as Ebola fades](#) (Reuters, 9 OCT)
- [Statement on the 7th meeting of the IHR Emergency Committee regarding the Ebola outbreak in West Africa](#) (WHO, 5 OCT)
- [Sierra Leone begins new Ebola 42-day countdown](#) (Voice of America, 28 SEP)
- [Ebola response phase 3: Framework for achieving and sustaining a resilient zero](#) (WHO, SEP 2015)
- [Inovio receives \\$24 Million option grant from DARPA to advance Ebola program development](#) (GlobalNewswire, 21 SEP)
- [World Health agency's bungling hindered Ebola response in Sierra Leone](#) (Washington Post, 20 SEP)
- [Fighting Ebola with a palm-sized DNA sequencer](#) (The Atlantic, 16 SEP)
- [Sex and masturbation may hamper Ebola eradication efforts](#) (Reuters, 9 SEP)
- [Ebola transmission in Liberia over. Nation enters 90-day intensive surveillance period](#) (WHO, 3 SEP)
- [Termination of Operation United Assistance and maintaining certain DoD Ebola virus disease-related guidance and authorities](#) (U.S. DoD, 10 AUG)
- [How the DoD helped confront Ebola](#) (Georgetown Public Policy Review, 12 AUG)
- [Report of the Ebola Interim Assessment Panel](#) (WHO, 7 JUL)