

Department of Defense
Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch
West Africa Ebola Surveillance Summary
(14 JAN 2016)



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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (AFHSB)

West Africa Ebola Surveillance Summary #132

14 JAN 2016 (next report as needed)



CASE REPORT: [WHO declared](#) Liberia to be Ebola transmission-free on 14 JAN 2016 after 42 days with no new cases; the country now begins a 90-day period of heightened surveillance. All three outbreak countries in West Africa have now been declared Ebola transmission-free, with all known chains of Ebola transmission stopped. Guinea and Sierra Leone were declared transmission-free on 29 DEC and 7 NOV 2015, respectively. Both of these countries are in 90-day periods of heightened surveillance with Sierra Leone's due to end on 5 FEB. In a statement, WHO warned that more flare-ups are expected and that heightened surveillance and response in the coming months is critical.

Surveillance activities were summarized in WHO's 6 JAN 2016 [situation report](#) (the latest available). In Guinea, 645 alerts were reported from 33 of the country's 34 prefectures, and Guinea tested a total of 282 new and repeat samples. Liberia reported 633 alerts resulting in the testing of 588 new and repeat samples. Sierra Leone reported 952 alerts with 976 new and repeat samples tested.

From the time the West Africa outbreak was recognized in MAR 2014 until the last case was reported on 20 NOV 2015 there were 28,637 confirmed, suspected, and probable Ebola virus disease (EVD) cases (11,315 deaths) in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Italy, Senegal, Nigeria, United Kingdom, Spain, Mali, and the United States.

On 15 DEC, WHO's eighth [Emergency Committee meeting](#) on the EVD outbreak found that the outbreak continued to constitute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) due to the potential for re-introduction of the virus in densely populated areas by the survivor populations. The committee described the current period as a "critical phase of transition." WHO considers the West Africa epidemic to be in a [phase 3 response](#), which implements specific actions to achieve and maintain zero virus transmission.

Ebola virus can persist at various sites in the body for many months in some people, [according to WHO](#). [CDC](#) posted information on persistent medical conditions after recovery from EVD. A study by CDC researchers published in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) (NEJM) on 17 DEC showed that eight survivors treated in the U.S. have symptoms weeks to months after recovery that can range from mild to severe.

DoD RESPONSE: On 10 AUG, the Deputy Secretary of Defense signed a [memorandum](#) that extends, for at least one year following the 30 JUN 2015 end of OUA, selected DoD policies and EVD-related responsibilities, including those related to health surveillance, personal protective equipment, medical treatment for deployed DoD personnel, and transport of exposed or infected DoD personnel. DoD personnel continue to provide support to the Liberian Institute of Biomedical Research.

DIAGNOSTICS AND MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES: A [study](#) published in the 6 JAN 2016 NEJM showed the transfusion of convalescent plasma to treat EVD patients was not associated with a significant improvement in survival rate. In the same issue, [researchers found](#) evidence suggesting that EVD patients who were prescribed the antimalarial drug, artesunate–amodiaquine, had a lower risk of death compared to patients who were prescribed another antimalarial, artemether–lumefantrinet. Additional information on [vaccines, therapies, and diagnostics](#) is available from WHO.

TRAVEL ADVISORY: On 29 DEC, CDC lowered its travel advisory for Guinea to [Watch - Level 1, Practice Usual Precautions](#). Advisories for [Sierra Leone](#) and [Liberia](#) were updated on 29 DEC but remain at Watch - Level 1, Practice Usual Precautions. Travelers from Guinea are still subject to [enhanced entry screening](#), but active monitoring is no longer required. Enhanced entry screening has been discontinued for travelers to the U.S. from Liberia and Sierra Leone, and travelers from these countries are no longer being funneled through the [five U.S. airports](#) conducting the screening (JFK, Newark Liberty, Washington Dulles, Chicago O'Hare, and Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson). According to CDC, travelers from Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone should self-monitor for fever or other symptoms of Ebola for 21 days after departure; they should contact their state or local health department or seek healthcare if symptoms develop during this time. CDC updated its guidance for the [Assessment of Persons Under Investigation Having Low \(But not Zero\) Risk of Exposure to Ebola](#) on 1 DEC.

Text updated from the previous report will be printed in red; items in (+xx) represent the change in number from the previous AFHSB summary (31 DEC 2015).

All information has been verified unless noted otherwise. Sources include WHO, CDC, NEJM, and health agencies in the listed countries.

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Latest Available Ebola Case Counts in or Related to West Africa, 2014-2016

Country (as of date)	EVD Cases All / Lab Confirmed	Deaths All / Lab Confirmed	EVD Cases in HCW / Deaths	Contacts Being Followed
Guinea (29 DEC 2015)	3,804 / 3,351	2,536 / 2,083	196 / 100	0
Sierra Leone (8 NOV 2015)	14,122 / 8,704	3,955 / 3,589	307 / 221	0
Liberia (14 JAN 2016)	10,675 / 3,160	4,809 / NA	378 / 192	0
Italy (20 JUL 2015)	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 (14 JAN 2016)	28,637 / 15,249	11,315 / 5,685[†]	900 / 520	0

[†]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.

Text updated from the previous report will be printed in red; items in (+xx) represent the change in number from the previous AFHSB summary (17 DEC 2015).

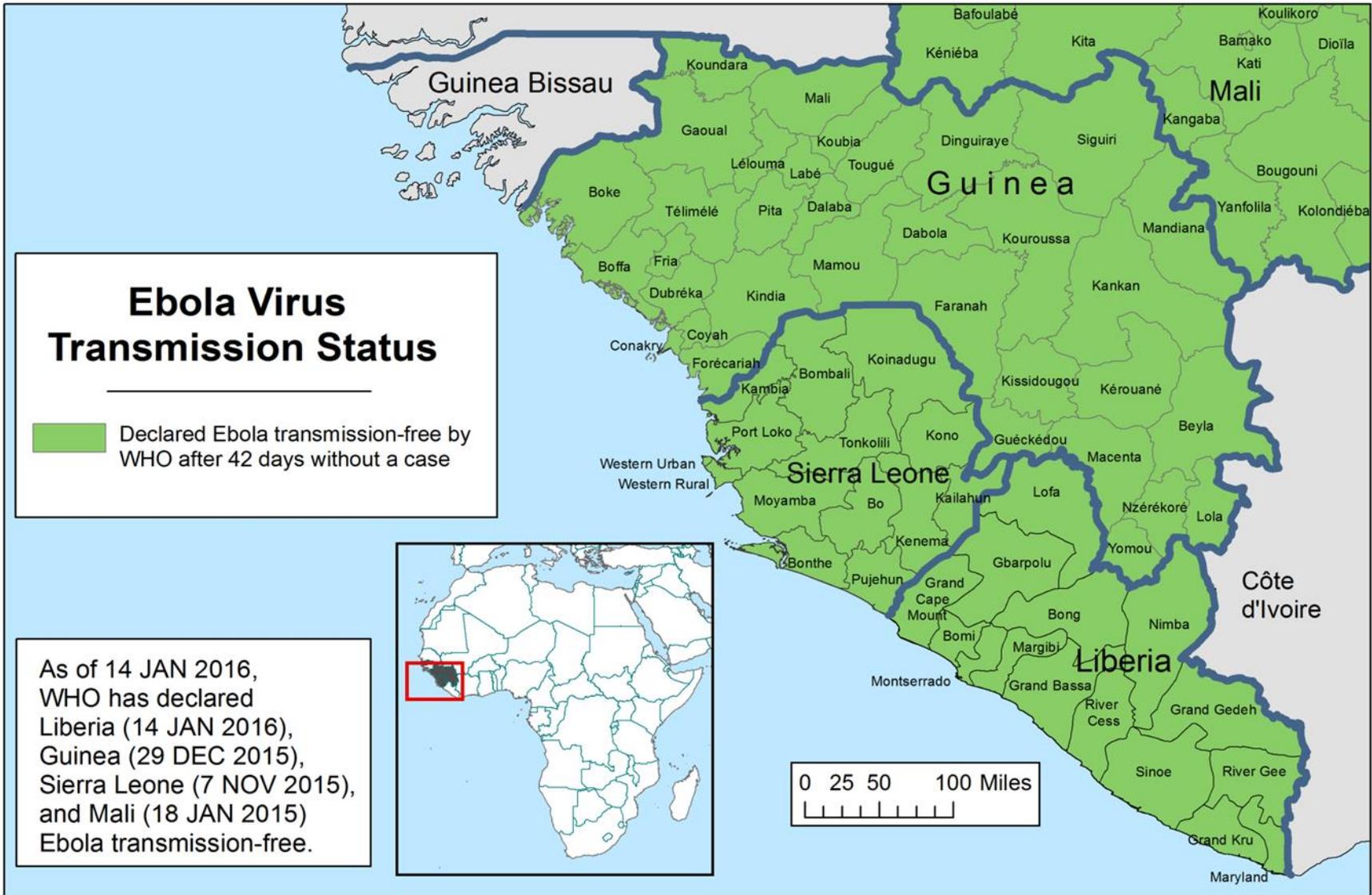
All information has been verified unless noted otherwise. Sources include NCMI, WHO, CDC, and health agencies in the listed countries.



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All information has been verified unless noted otherwise. Sources include WHO and the Liberia Ministry 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
- [AFHSB Guidelines for Detecting and Reporting DoD Cases of Ebola Virus](#)
- [USAMRIID](#)
- [State Department Travel Site](#)
- [USAID Ebola Site](#)
- [DoD News](#)

Information and News

- [Latest Ebola outbreak over in Liberia; West Africa is at zero, but new flare-ups are likely to occur](#) (WHO, 14 JAN 2016)
- [Evaluation of convalescent plasma for Ebola virus disease in Guinea](#) (NEJM, 6 JAN 2016)
- [Effect of artesunate–amodiaquine on mortality related to Ebola virus disease](#) (NEJM, 6 JAN 2016)
- [Ebola Situation Report - 6 January 2016](#) (WHO, 6 JAN 2016)
- [Post-Ebola Signs and Symptoms in U.S. Survivors](#) (NEJM, 17 DEC)
- [Genomic Analysis Sheds Light on Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak in Liberia](#) (USAMRIID Press Release, 9 DEC)
- [Duration of Ebola virus RNA persistence in semen of survivors: population-level estimates and projections](#) (Eurosurveillance, 3 DEC)
- [Assessment of persons under investigation having low \(but not zero\) risk of exposure to Ebola](#) (CDC, 1 DEC)
- [Amid failure and chaos, an Ebola vaccine](#) (NY Times, 24 NOV)
- [An indictment of Ebola response](#) (Harvard Gazette, 22 NOV)
- [Surveillance strategy during Phase 3 of the Ebola response](#) (WHO, 5 NOV)
- [Persistent virus in people recovering from Ebola virus disease](#) (WHO, 14 OCT)
- [Ebola response phase 3](#) (WHO, SEP 2015)
- [Termination of Operation United Assistance and maintaining certain DoD Ebola virus disease-related guidance and authorities](#) (U.S. DoD, 10 AUG)