

## Ebola Update: September 4, 2014

**Healix is closely monitoring the current outbreak of Ebola in West Africa, and will be sending regular updates and advice to our clients as the outbreak continues.**

### **Update:**

- The United Nations estimates containing the Ebola virus will cost \$600 million, up from the \$490 million estimate from the World Health Organization (WHO) last week.
- The President of Ghana has announced he will allow an airbridge, or route, through the country to allow affected regions to quickly obtain supplies and move people. Ivory Coast, which closed its borders with Liberia and Guinea in August, has modified its ruling and said the nation will allow humanitarian and economic corridors to the bordering countries.
- The National Institutes of Health begin testing a new Ebola vaccine in a human safety trial. The experimental vaccine, developed by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and the pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), will first be administered to three healthy humans to see if they experience any adverse effects. The GSK/NIAID vaccine did very well when tested on chimpanzees and funding will allow GSK to begin manufacturing up to 10,000 doses while trials are ongoing.
- The second leading candidate vaccine was developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The Canadian government is willing to ship 800 to 1,000 doses yet is still uncertain how they can be transported safely. In addition to regulatory and logistic issues, the vaccine must be kept cool enough to remain potent.
- Dr. Rick Sacra, the second doctor from the United States infected with Ebola while on serving a humanitarian mission in Liberia, could be evacuated back to the US as early as today. Dr. Sacra had been delivering babies in Liberia and was not in direct contact with Ebola patients, which raised concerns over how he was infected since it is transmitted by contact with bodily fluids of the ill. Suspected cases of airborne infection in monkeys in laboratories have been reported but it remains undetermined how Dr. Sacra contracted the virus.
- After sequencing samples of the Ebola virus, WHO has released a report confirming the Democratic Republic of Congo Ebola cases are genetically unrelated to the West Africa outbreak.
- Nurses at Liberia's largest hospital, Monrovia's John F. Kennedy, have gone on strike, saying they will not return to work until they are provided with the hazmat-like suits known as personal protective equipment, or PPEs, that protect against the spread of the virus.
- The Minister of Health in Port Harcourt, Nigeria's oil hub, has reported three confirmed cases of EVD in the area, following a death last week. These are the only confirmed cases outside of the country's main transit hub, Lagos, but hundreds more are being investigated.
- Scientists are fast-tracking a third Ebola vaccine from Johnson & Johnson. Testing will begin in early 2015. Human tests are not expected to commence until later that year or possibly even 2016.
- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has suggested wealthy countries should immediately dispatch available specialized biological disaster response teams immediately to West Africa. Senior US government officials have indicated the US is focusing on rapidly increasing the number of Ebola treatment centers in the region, providing personal protective equipment, and training local staff.

### **Clinics and Facilities Status in Affected Areas**

Healix is in direct communication with those medical facilities that are still operating in the impacted regions. Please contact Healix directly for further information on the readiness of medical facilities in these areas.

### **Country Travel Advice Status**

Sierra Leone: Warning Level 3 - Healix Recommend "Avoid Non-Essential Travel"  
Guinea: Warning Level 3 - Healix Recommend "Avoid Non-Essential Travel"

Liberia: Warning Level 3 - Healix Recommend "Avoid Non-Essential Travel"  
Nigeria: Alert Level 2 - Healix Recommend "Practice Enhanced Precautions"

#### Other African Nations Unaffected by Ebola

Healix recommend that travelers take usual precautions with vaccinations and travel arrangements but should be familiar with ["Ebola Precautions if Traveling to Africa."](#)

- Ebola Infection Table by Country (based on CDC reporting, updated as of 28 August):

Country	Suspected and Confirmed Case Count	Suspected and Confirmed Case Deaths	Laboratory Confirmed Cases
Sierra Leone	1026	422	953
Liberia	1378	694	322
Guinea	648	430	482
Nigeria	17	6	13
Spain*	1	1	0
United States*	2	0	2
Saudi Arabia*	0	1	0
United Kingdom*	1	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,073</b>	<b>1,554</b>	<b>1,772</b>

\*Persons repatriated to these countries from affected countries