

Ebola Update: 31 October 2014

- Researchers at the University of Washington have found that in a study on mice the effect of the Ebola virus may be determined by genes. They identified two genes that were crucial in whether the mice contracted the virus and died or whether they became ill at all. The researchers began their work three years ago. This is the first time scientists have been able to breed mice that developed Ebola infections similar to humans, including the hemorrhages that appear a few days before death in one-third of humans infected. The study has shown that the mice who hemorrhage do so because their immune systems overreact resulting in an inflammatory response leading to cells seeping fluids and breaks down white blood cells, tissue and organs. If the patient survives long enough blood begins to leak out of the vessels. The study has implications for humans and researchers will continue to study the mice and the specific genes that lead to different outcomes after infection.
- Kaci Hickox, a nurse in Maine who had treated Ebola patients on behalf of MSF, defied state-ordered home quarantine restrictions and took a bike ride Thursday. She is still asymptomatic and her public protest goes against the measures the US government is taking in hopes of containing the virus.
- Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) is warning that the new United States quarantine measures are having a "chilling effect" on the charity's work. The state restrictions may shorten assignments to West Africa and some volunteers are delaying their return to the US for 21 days by remaining in Europe in order to avoid being quarantined at home. Others are being discouraged by their families to go into the field, depleting the most needed resource to fight the virus, real healthcare workers on the ground.
- China will dispatch an elite army unit of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to build a 100-bed treatment center in Liberia. The squad has experience from the 2002 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak. The center will open in one month and China will send 480 PLA medical professionals to treat patients.

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"
 DRC: Alert Level 2 - Healix Recommend "Practice Enhanced Precautions"
 Nigeria: Alert Level 1 - Healix Recommend "Practice Usual 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 WHO and CDC reporting, updated as of 29 October):

Country	Suspected and Confirmed Case Count	Suspected and Confirmed Deaths	Laboratory Confirmed Case Count
Sierra Leone	5235	1500	3700
Liberia	6535	2413	2515
Guinea	1906	997	1391
Nigeria	20	8	19
Spain	1	0	1
United States	4	1	4
Senegal	1	0	1
Spain*	2	2	2
United States*	5	0	5
Saudi Arabia*	0	1	0
Germany*	3	2	3
United Kingdom*	1	0	1
France*	1	0	1
Norway*	1	0	1
Mali*	1	1	1
DRC**	68	49	38
Total	13,784	4,974	7,683

*Persons repatriated to these countries from affected countries

**The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) outbreak is unrelated to the epidemic in West Africa