

Ebola Update: 13 November 2014

- Despite initial success in containing a potential Ebola outbreak related to a two-year-old traveler, Mali is now facing an increased likelihood of new cases related to the recent death of a Guinean citizen who received care in Mali. Shortly after passing away from an undiagnosed condition the patient received a traditional Muslim burial ceremony without any precautions regarding Ebola. At least one member of the man's family has now tested positive for Ebola. Mali has placed quarantine on 90 people and has closed a mosque and private clinic.
- New Ebola cases in Guinea have begun moderating, following a similar pattern of improvement seen in Liberia. In a recent report from WHO the moderation has begun in parts of Guinea and Liberia, though transmission of the virus "remains strong." Some districts in both countries are still experiencing "consistently high transmission," and Sierra Leone continues to report "steep increases" in the disease.
- Government officials in both the US and Liberia appear to be reassessing the strategy to combat the spread of Ebola in Liberia, where earlier plans called for the construction of 17 Ebola treatment centers. The US completed the first of its 100-bed centers on Monday. Two additional centers will be completed by the end of November and seven additional units across Liberia are in various stages of construction. The original commitment to 17 treatment centers came at the height of the epidemic in Liberia, which has since experienced a moderation of the outbreak. Several treatment centers currently in operation around the country have for more than a month reported empty beds. Some advocates are calling for more of the earmarked funds to go towards other healthcare needs within the country, including detection and rapid response to future outbreaks.
- Medical charity MSF has announced clinical trials of three separate experimental treatments will commence at three of its treatment centers in Guinea beginning next month. The trials will include two antiviral drugs (brincidofovir and favipiravir) and convalescent blood and plasma therapy.
- Hundreds of health workers involved in treating Ebola patients at a clinic in hard-hit Sierra Leone have gone on strike to protest the government's failure to pay an agreed weekly \$100 "hazard payment" for such work. The Bandajuma clinic is run by medical charity MSF, which said it would be forced to close the facility if the strike continued. About 60 patients have been left unattended due to the strike.
- The family of Thomas Eric Duncan, the Ebola patient who passed away in Texas, has reached a financial settlement with Texas Health Presbyterian of Dallas. The hospital initially failed to identify Mr. Duncan's risk for Ebola when he sought care for symptoms following arrival from Liberia. The settlement includes creating a charitable foundation to improve Ebola treatment in Africa.
- Thousands of nurses reportedly took part in rallies, protests and strikes across the US on Wednesday over what they say are insufficient safeguards for health workers treating patients possibly infected with Ebola. The action was coordinated by the California-based National Nurses United, which is currently in contentious contract talks with operators of nearly 90 California hospitals and clinics. Healthcare provider Kaiser Permanente, which operates many of the facilities involved in the labor negotiations, accused the union of using Ebola as a pretext to justify labor action.

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 12 November):

Country	Suspected and Confirmed Case Count	Suspected and Confirmed Deaths	Laboratory Confirmed Case Count
Sierra Leone	5368	1169	4523
Liberia	6822	2836	2553
Guinea	1878	1142	1612
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*	2	0	2
Norway*	1	0	1
Mali*	1	1	1
DRC**	68	49	38
Total	14,177	5,211	8,766

*Persons repatriated to these countries from affected countries

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