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CDC HAN INFOService

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HANINFO-00368

HAN 368: Ebola Response Update #4

Summary: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working with other U.S. government agencies, the World Health Organization, and other domestic and international partners in an international response to the current Ebola outbreak in West Africa. This document summarizes key messages about the outbreak and the response. It will be updated as new information becomes available and distributed regularly. Please share the document with others as appropriate.

Background:

CDC has activated its Emergency Operations Center to respond to Ebola. Below, please find resources and guidance that we hope will be useful to you and your organization. Please share with your colleagues and networks.

In this HAN INFOService message:

- Announcements
- Ebola Cases and Deaths (West Africa)
- Online Resources
- Summary Key Messages (**full Key Messages document attached**)

Announcements

CDC Media Statement: "CDC Deployee Returns from West Africa by Charter Flight"
<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/s0827-deployee-returns.html> (**NEW**)

Ebola Cases and Deaths (West Africa)

Updated: August 20, 2014

- Suspected and Confirmed Case Count: **2615**
- Suspected Case Deaths: **1427**
- Laboratory Confirmed Cases: **1528**

Updates on cases and deaths can be found on the CDC website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/guinea/index.html>

Online Resources

General Outbreak Information:

What's New

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/guinea/whats-new.html>

Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever

English: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html> Spanish:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/spanish/index.html>

Questions and Answers on Ebola

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/guinea/qa.html>

World Health Organization Disease Outbreak News

<http://www.afro.who.int/en/clusters-a-programmes/dpc/epidemic-a-pandemic-alert-and-response/outbreak-news.html>

New Or Updated Guidance Documents: (Full range of guidance documents can be found at the CDC Ebola Web site <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>)

[Interim Guidance for Specimen Collection, Transport, Testing, and Submission](http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-specimen-collection-submission-patients-suspected-infection-ebola.html)

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-specimen-collection-submission-patients-suspected-infection-ebola.html> (UPDATED)

Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services Systems and 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-emergency-medical-services-systems-911-public-safety-answering-points-management-patients-known-suspected-united-states.html> (NEW)

Guidance for Safe Handling of Human Remains

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/guidance-safe-handling-human-remains-ebola-patients-us-hospitals-mortuaries.html> (NEW)

Advice for Humanitarian Aid Workers

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/humanitarian-workers-ebola> (NEW)

Multimedia Resources:

Outbreak Response Photos

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/cdcglobal/sets/72157646018355339/>

Ebola Radio Health Messages in Local Languages

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/guinea/radio-spots.html>

Print Resources

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/guinea/print-resources.html>

Outbreak Map

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/resources/distribution-map-guinea-outbreak.html>

Digital Press Kit

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/dpk/2014/dpk-ebola-outbreak.html>

Videos:

Infection Prevention and Control of Ebola Virus Disease in U.S. Hospitals

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/index.html>

CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden discusses Ebola outbreak

<http://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/video/cdc-director-tom-frieden-md-on-ebola>

Content Syndication:

Put [CDC content on Ebola](#) on your website that will update automatically.

<http://tools.cdc.gov/syndication/pages.aspx?mediaCollectionId=71>

Social Media Resources:

Follow us on Twitter

@CDCgov <http://twitter.com/cdcgov>

@CDCEmergency <http://twitter.com/cdcemergency>

@CDCTravel <http://twitter.com/cdctravel>

@CDC_NCEZID http://twitter.com/cdc_ncezid

@CDC_eHealth http://twitter.com/cdc_ehealth

@CDCGlobal <http://twitter.com/cdcglobal>

Like us on Facebook

CDC <http://www.facebook.com/CDC>

CDC Emergency Preparedness and Response <http://www.facebook.com/CDCEmergency>

CDC Travelers' Health <http://www.facebook.com/CDCTravelersHealth>

CDC Global <http://www.facebook.com/CDCGlobal>

Summary Key Messages

A full key messages document is attached. Also, please note that NEW information has been highlighted in red.

- The 2014 Ebola outbreak is the largest Ebola outbreak in history and the first in West Africa. The current outbreak is affecting four countries in West Africa: Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone but does not pose a significant risk to the United States. A small number of cases in Nigeria have been associated with a man from Liberia who traveled to Lagos and died from Ebola, but the virus does not appear to have been widely spread.
- In the past week, the Democratic Republic of Congo has reported cases of Ebola in a remote area of the country. These cases do not appear to be epidemiologically linked to the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa, based on preliminary investigation.
- The outbreak in West Africa is worsening, but CDC, along with other U.S. government agencies and international partners, is taking steps to respond to this rapidly changing situation.
- Ebola poses no substantial risk to the U.S. general population.
- On August 8, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that the current Ebola outbreak is a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).
 - The PHEIC declaration underscores the need for a coordinated international response to contain the spread of Ebola.
 - Information about the PHEIC declaration is available on the WHO website www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2014/ebola-20140808/en/#.
- A person infected with Ebola virus is not contagious until symptoms appear.
- Ebola virus is spread through direct contact with the blood or body fluids (including but not limited to feces, saliva, urine, vomit, and semen) of a person who is sick with Ebola. The virus in the blood and body fluids can enter another person's body through broken skin or via unprotected mucous membranes in, for example, the eyes, nose, or mouth. The virus also can be spread through contact with objects (like needles and syringes) that have been contaminated with the virus, or infected animals.
 - Ebola is not spread through the air or by water or, in general, by food; however, in Africa, Ebola may be spread as a result of handling bushmeat (wild animals hunted for food) and contact with infected bats.
- As of **August 27**, no confirmed Ebola cases have been reported in the United States.
 - In 2014, two U.S. healthcare workers who were infected with Ebola virus in Liberia were transported to a hospital in the United States. Both patients have been released from the hospital after laboratory testing confirmed that they no longer have Ebola virus in their blood. CDC has advised the hospital that there is no public health concern with their release and that they do not pose a risk to household contacts or to the public.
 - CDC has received many calls from health departments and hospitals about suspected cases of Ebola in travelers from the affected countries. These calls have been triaged appropriately and some samples have been sent to CDC for testing. All samples sent to CDC have so far been negative.

- Samples from other U.S. persons under investigation (all of whom recently traveled to West Africa) are being tested as they are received. To date, all persons under investigation in the United States have tested negative for Ebola.
- As a precaution, CDC is communicating with American healthcare workers about how to detect and isolate patients who may have Ebola and how they can protect themselves from infection.
- Early recognition of Ebola is important for providing appropriate patient care and preventing the spread of infection. Healthcare providers should be alert for and evaluate any patients who may have Ebola.
 - The case definitions for Ebola virus disease are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/case-definition.html>.
- CDC and its partners at U.S. ports of entry are following standard procedures and monitoring arriving travelers but currently are not doing enhanced entry screening of passengers traveling from the affected countries. However, CDC works with international public health organizations, other federal agencies, and the travel industry to identify sick travelers arriving in the United States and take public health actions to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.
- CDC also is assisting with exit screening and communication efforts in West Africa to prevent sick travelers from getting on planes.
- CDC recommends that people avoid nonessential travel to Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.
- CDC recommends that people practice enhanced precautions if traveling to Nigeria.
- Recommendations and guidance may change as new information becomes available.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protects people's health and safety by preventing and controlling diseases and injuries; enhances health decisions by providing credible information on critical health issues; and promotes healthy living through strong partnerships with local, national, and international organizations.

Categories of Health Alert Network messages:

Health Alert Requires immediate action or attention; highest level of importance
Health Advisory May not require immediate action; provides important information for a specific incident or situation
Health Update Unlikely to require immediate action; provides updated information regarding an incident or situation
HAN Info Service Does not require immediate action; provides general public health information

##This message was distributed to state and local health officers, state and local epidemiologists, state and local laboratory directors, public information officers, HAN coordinators, and clinician organizations##