

Outbreak Brief #2: Ebola virus disease (EVD) Outbreak

Date of Issue: 3 March 2021

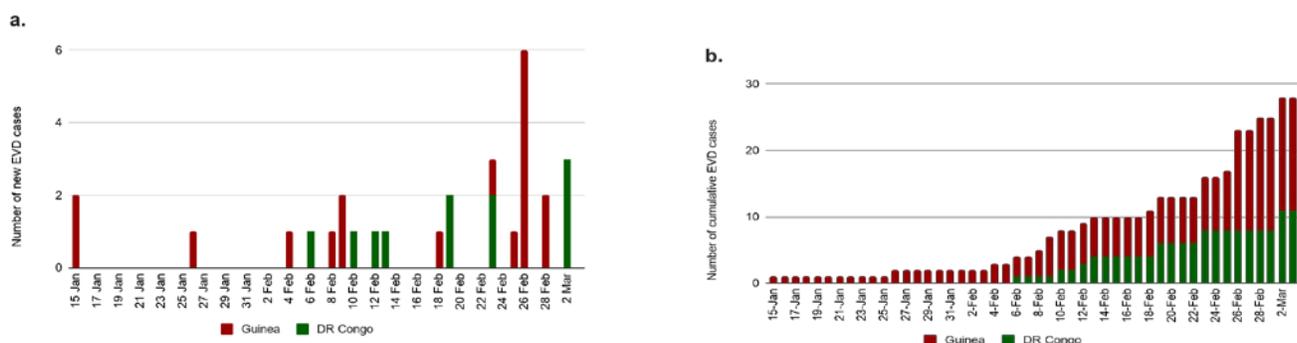
28 cases and 11 deaths

Data sources: African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (23 February 2021), **11 new confirmed cases**, one new death, and two new recoveries of Ebola virus disease (EVD) have been reported in Nzérékoré, Guinea and North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo). This represents a **47% increase** in the total number of cases reported this week compared to the last brief. Cumulatively, 28 EVD cases, 11 deaths (CFR: 39%), and two recoveries have been reported from DR Congo (11 cases; 4 deaths; 2 recoveries) and Guinea (17; 6; 2). Seven healthcare workers are amongst the confirmed cases: DR Congo (2) and Guinea (5).

- **DR Congo updates:** Since the last brief, one new health zone (Butembo) is reporting three cases; additionally, two new recoveries have been reported this week. Cumulatively, 11 confirmed cases with four deaths (CFR: 36%) have been reported in four health zones: Biena (5; 3), Butembo (3; 0), Katwa (2; 1) and Musienene (1; 0).
- **Guinea updates:** Since the last brief, eight new confirmed cases, one new death and two new recoveries have been reported in Nzérékoré. Cumulatively, 17 cases (13 confirmed and 4 probable) with seven deaths and two recoveries have been reported in Nzérékoré (12 cases; 7 deaths; 1 recovery) and Conakry (1; 0; 1) regions.¹
- **Cross-border updates:** Between 15 - 28 February 2021, Sierra Leone investigated 13 EVD-related alerts. All persons under investigation tested negative for EVD by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test. As of today, no confirmed case has been reported from Sierra Leone.

Figure 1: New (a) and cumulative (b) cases reported by day in DR Congo and Guinea, 15 January-3 March 2021.



¹ The case in Conakry travelled from Nzérékoré and has since recovered. No active cases are currently being reported in Conakry.

Table 1. Cumulative and new Ebola virus disease cases and deaths, identified contacts, and population vaccinated as reported by African Union Member States as of 3 March 2021²

Location	Number of cases (new)*	Number of deaths (new)	Case Fatality Rate	Number of contacts (% monitored)	Total number vaccinated ³
DR Congo	11 (3)	4 (0)	36%	634 (90%)	841
North Kivu province	11 (3)	4 (0)	36%	634 (90%)	841
Biena HZ	5 (0)	4 (0)	80%	215(88%)	468
Butembo HZ	3 (3)	0	0	137 (94%)	147
Kalunguta HZ	0	0	N/A	20(100%)	0
Katwa HZ	2 (0)	0	0	205 (89%)	214
Musienene HZ	1 (0)	0	0	57 (87%)	12
Guinea	17 (9)	7 (1)	41%	497 (100%)	1,317
Conakry region	1	0	0	18 (100%)	--
Dixinn	0	0	N/A	2(100%)	--
Matoto	0	0	N/A	10 (100%)	--
Ratoma	1 (0)	0	0	6 (100%)	--
Nzérékoré region	17 (9)	7 (1)	41%	497 (100%)	--
Total	28(11)	11 (1)	39%	1,628 (95%)	2,158

² Abbreviations: HZ = health zone; *cases = confirmed and probable; new = new cases or deaths reported since the last brief.

³ Populations targeted for vaccination include case contacts and frontline healthcare workers.

Event Geoscope and Risk Assessment Levels

Geoscope:
low

Risk level:
high

No updates have been made to the existing geographic scope (geoscope) and risk level for the EVD events being reported for both DR Congo and Guinea. We will continue to monitor the situation and update this assessment as needed. The World Health Organization⁴ and European Centres for Disease Prevention and Control⁵ have also issued risk assessments for the EVD events.

Africa CDC Response Activities

- Africa CDC's response team to Guinea:
 - conducted an initial assessment to inform Africa CDC's response plan;
 - participated in the development of Guinea's national EVD response plan;
 - participated in an inter-ministerial meeting on 2 March 2021 with ministers of health from Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone to discuss strategies for prevention, preparedness and response to the EVD outbreak.
- This week, Africa CDC leadership is visiting Guinea and other high-risk neighbouring countries to hold strategic discussions regarding Africa CDC's support.
- Africa CDC continues to organize weekly press briefing on the EVD situation in Guinea and DR Congo to raise awareness on the evolution of the situation and harmonize response efforts.
- Africa CDC continues to prioritize event-based surveillance and rumour-monitoring through media scanning to support early warning and response within the continent.
- Africa CDC will be deploying technical experts to support the key response pillars in alignment with our incident action plan and country response plan.

Recommendations for the Member States

1. Member States should continue to enhance their cross-border surveillance efforts to:
 - a. map population movements to identify all potential crossing points where there is risk of disease spread;
 - b. set-up screening posts and conduct health screenings for travellers with signs of EVD (e.g. fever, rash, vomiting, diarrhoea, and haemorrhage);
 - c. implement public health measures at border crossing points including temperature monitoring, and infection prevention and control measures; and
 - d. share health information for EVD at borders.
2. Member States should continue to perform contact tracing and monitoring of all probable and confirmed cases.

⁴ WHO | Ebola virus disease – Guinea and Ebola virus disease – Democratic Republic of the Congo

⁵ Ebola virus disease outbreak in Guinea, 2021

3. Member states should enhance infection prevention and control measures in health care settings, health care workers protection and practice safe and dignified burial.
4. All Member States should notify and routinely share data regarding confirmed EVD cases, deaths, recoveries, tests conducted, and healthcare workers infected with WHO and Africa CDC to continually inform these and other updates. Notify Africa CDC by emailing: AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org.
5. Member States should continue to provide information to the general public about seeking immediate medical care for those who develop symptoms similar to EVD.
6. Member States should work urgently with partners to improve their preparedness for detecting and managing imported cases, including the mapping of health facilities and active surveillance with zero reporting.
7. At-risk countries should put in place approvals for investigational medicines and vaccines as an immediate priority for preparedness.

Resources for more information

- Africa CDC updates: <https://africacdc.org/>
- [Ebola virus infection - Prevention | BMJ Best Practice US](#)
- US CDC - [Ebola Virus Disease](#) and WHO - [Ebola virus disease](#) overview
- WHO - [Implementation and management of contact tracing for Ebola virus disease](#)
- WHO - [Surveillance strategy during Phase 3 of the Ebola response](#)
- WHO - EVD [Infection prevention and control](#)