

Outbreak Brief #4: Ebola virus disease (EVD) in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Date of Issue: 05 November 2021

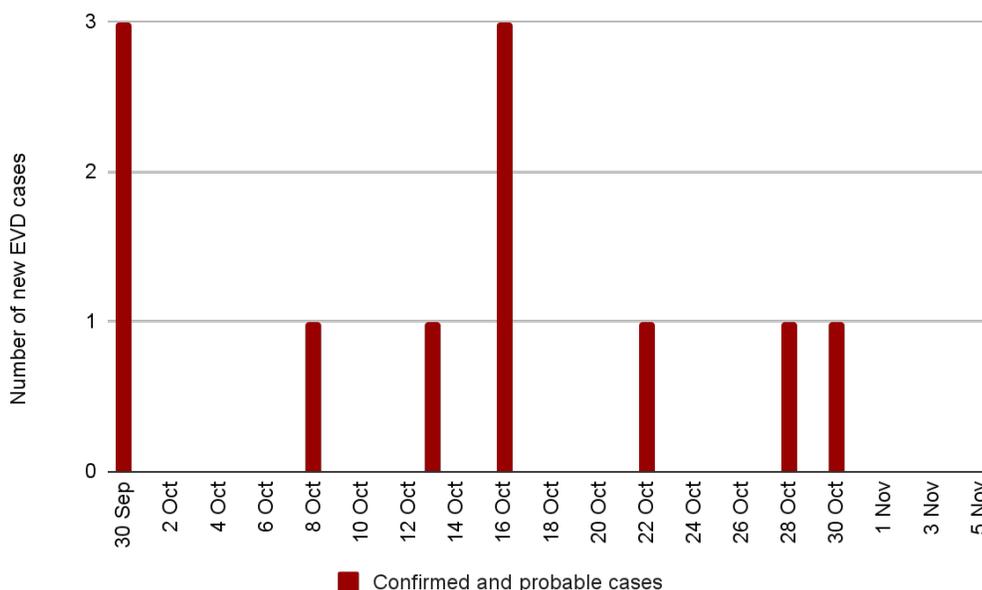
11 cases¹, 9 deaths, and 1 recovery

Data sources: DRC Ministry of Health

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (29 October 2021), two new confirmed community deaths have been reported from two new health areas (Ngalinga and Bundji) in Beni health zone, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This is a 33% increase in the number of new confirmed cases being reported compared to the last outbreak brief.

Cumulatively, 11 cases (8 confirmed, 3 probable), nine (6; 3) deaths (case fatality ratio: 82%) and one recovery have been reported. Cases are distributed across three health areas: Butsili (9 cases, 7 deaths, 1 recovery), Ngalinga (1, 1, 0) and Bundji (1, 1, 0). Of note, four (50%) of the confirmed cases are children under 5 years. Currently one (1) confirmed case is hospitalized in an EVD treatment center in Beni and ten (10) suspected cases are admitted in an isolation center in Butsili health area. The last confirmed case was reported on 30 October 2021.

Figure 1: New confirmed Ebola virus disease cases reported by day in DR Congo between 30 September - 05 November 2021.



¹ Three community deaths that were notified on 30 September 2021 have been validated by the Member State as probable cases.

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 event reported in DR Congo. The Africa CDC will continue to monitor the situation and update this assessment as needed. The World Health Organization² has also issued a risk assessment for this event.

New DR Congo Response Activities

- Community surveillance and active case search is ongoing.
 - 604 active contacts have been identified in eight health areas
 - 511 (84%) active contacts are being monitored
- 447 persons were vaccinated in Butsili, Ngongolio, Paida and Mabakanga health areas.
- 14 points of entry have been activated for EVD screening.
- 36,249 persons in 12,514 households have received EVD sensitization.
- 585 samples have been collected and analyzed.
- 121 service providers from 15 health facilities were monitored and oriented on compliance of infection prevention and control precautions.

New Africa CDC Response Activities

- Five Africa CDC staff have been assigned to support the response in Beni.
- Africa CDC is mobilizing local experts to support surveillance, laboratory and infection prevention and control activities.

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 travelers with signs of EVD (e.g. fever, rash, vomiting, diarrhoea, and hemorrhage).
 - c. Implement public health measures at border crossing points including temperature monitoring, and infection prevention and control measures.
 - d. Share health information for EVD at borders.
2. Where feasible, neighbouring Member States should integrate EVD surveillance into the existing COVID-19 surveillance strategies at community and health facility levels.
3. Member States should perform contact tracing and follow up of all probable and confirmed EVD cases.
4. Member States should enhance infection prevention and control measures in health care settings, health care workers protection and practice safe and dignified burial.
5. 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.

² https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/ebola-virus-disease-democratic-republic-of-the-congo_1

6. Member States should continue to provide information to the general public about seeking immediate medical care for those who develop symptoms similar to EVD.
7. 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.

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](#)