

## **New Ebola Outbreak NW DRC Declared 6-1-20**

### **Executive Summary:**

**On 6/1/20, the WHO announced a new outbreak of Ebola in the Northwestern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the same area that had a short outbreak in May 2018. WHO Responders & partners are already there and have done sampling & testing; more responders and supplies are on their way, including vaccine. In this new outbreak, there are 9 cases, 5 of which have been fatal, and one healthcare workers infected. This outbreak is worrisome because of its proximity to a river used often for transport to other areas, including the country's capital Kinshasa and neighboring countries.**

**The outbreak that has been occurring in the Eastern part of the DRC since August 1, 2018, is in a final countdown (hopefully). If there are no more cases in that area, as of June 25, that outbreak (#10) will be considered over.**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Ebola Outbreak to hit the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) was announced by the WHO on 6/1/20. It is located in the Northwestern part of the country in the same area as the Outbreak of May of 2018, in Equateur Province. The cases are located in Mbandaka, the Province's capital, within the Wagata health zone. The location is troubling since it is located on the Congo River with frequent transport traffic, including to the country's Capital, Kinshasa, other neighboring countries, and other villages located along the river. This area does not have any of the resistance or violence that plagued the outbreak in the Eastern part of the country.

The first known (index) case died in a Wangata hospital on May 18 with 3 others from her area dying of similar symptoms after her. One of the 3 that died in her area, a healthcare worker that cared for the hospitalized patient, as well as his wife, were Ebola positive on June 1<sup>st</sup>, triggering the DRC's and WHO's notices of the outbreak. So far, there have been 9 cases with 5 of them fatal. Contact screening and investigation continues and more personnel and supplies, including the VSV-EBOV vaccine, is due to arrive 6/2.

The Supplies and personnel are coming from the Eastern DRC, where the August 1918 Outbreak is currently in its last countdown, begun May 14<sup>th</sup>. If there are no more cases in that Region through 6/25, that outbreak will be considered over and only the newly reported one will remain. To date, there have been 3463 cases (3317 confirmed; 146 probable, but not testable), with 2280 fatalities.

Health Officials warn that there will likely be more human outbreaks since the Ebola virus is in animal reservoirs. It is also important to note that the DRC has two other outbreaks occurring. Namely, Measles that started in 2019 and has resulted in 369,520 cases with 6779 deaths and COVID-19 that, as of 5/31/20, includes 3195 cases with 72 deaths.

At this time, there is not currently any information on the new Ebola outbreak on the CDC website. It is being reported in the scientific & infectious disease outlets.

To access previously posted materials on Ebola and Ebola outbreaks: on the **Health Intelligence Page (HIP)**, find the **Outbreaks/Emerging Diseases/Pandemics** header and click on the box with **View all posts & resources**, and then on the next page, Type **Ebola** into the **Search Box** and click **Search**. Relevant information will be posted on the HIP as it becomes available.

#### **WHO News Release about a New Ebola Outbreak in DRC:**

<https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/01-06-2020-new-ebola-outbreak-detected-in-northwest-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-who-surge-team-supporting-the-response>

#### **CIDRAP New Ebola Outbreak 6/2/20:**

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/06/new-drc-ebola-outbreak-grows-9-cases-5-deaths>

#### **CIDRAP New Ebola Outbreak:**

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/06/new-ebola-outbreak-detected-northwestern-drc>

#### **WHO Ebola Fact Sheets:**

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ebola-virus-disease>

#### **WHO Ebola Virus Home Page with Links to More Specific Information:**

[https://www.who.int/health-topics/ebola/#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/ebola/#tab=tab_1)