

Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) & Guinea Update

There is good news in the DRC regarding Ebola, while the fight against it in Guinea continues. Acknowledging that any Ebola case, with all that each case entails, is awful, case numbers in both countries have been kept down through dedication & hard work. This includes the quick work of their governments & health officials and, from the outside, expert & essential assistance from organizations/stakeholders that were already onsite doing monitoring, or quickly responded and began mitigation activities. Ebola itself is scary enough, but the medical workers, community response & outreach teams, safe body handlers, border monitors, and others often face resistance and even violence while doing their work. This work is done by teams from the DRC and Guinea governments, the WHO, UNICEF, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders), International Red Cross, and others that I am surely forgetting. It is amazing work in often very difficult circumstances and conditions.

Both the DRC and Guinea began their 42-day countdowns from their last known cases on 3/21 and 3/24, respectively. The DRC continues their countdown, but Guinea's was interrupted with a new case in Soulouta on 4/2, along with a cluster of suspicious deaths. A group of people fled from those there to investigate, isolate, treat, and ring vaccinate anyone at risk for the disease. Medic teams are following them to make sure all those sick or exposed are found.

The **DRC's** latest outbreak (its 12th), began on 2/7/21, with no new cases reported since 3/1; the last patients were discharged from care on 3/21. The 42-day countdown, which is twice the length of the Ebola incubation period of 21 days, began on 3/21. If no new cases emerge, the DRC's outbreak will be declared over in early May. Active Monitoring is in place and teams remain in place in the event a case is reported/found. The data from this outbreak is as follows: 12 total cases with 11 confirmed and 1 probable; 6 deaths; and more than 1600 vaccinated.

As of the 4/4/21 report, **Guinea's** newest case was reported on 4/2. There is ongoing investigation to make sure there are no more cases, including in those that fled, as well as in the contacts of those that died in the cluster. Once there are no new cases, and the last person is discharged from care, their countdown will start over again. The outbreak data, as of 4/8 is as follows: 23 cases with 16 confirmed and 7 considered probable; 2 people are currently hospitalized. There have been 12 deaths, with 5 confirmed & 7 probable Ebola cases; 5 of the cases have been healthcare workers with 2 of them dying. There are currently 97 contacts under surveillance and >5,125 have been vaccinated.

For more detailed information and reports from earlier in the outbreaks, please see the FirstWatch HIP (initial report 2/16/21) <https://firstwatch.net/new-ebola-outbreak-in-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo/> . A 3/15/21 update is included below, that includes US airline flight provisions & contact information requirements for all passengers who have been in, or through, the DRC or Guinea in the previous 21 days before arriving in the US. They are funneled to one of 6 US airports with enhanced screening at the airport & confirmation of their info, allowing for surveillance by local & state public health authorities at their final destination in the US. See <https://firstwatch.net/ebola-in-guinea-the-drc-update/> .