

Department of Defense
Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch
West Africa Ebola Surveillance Summary
(31 DEC 2015)



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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (AFHSB)

West Africa Ebola Surveillance Summary #131

31 DEC 2015 (next report 14 JAN 2016)



CASE REPORT: [WHO declared](#) Guinea Ebola transmission-free on 29 DEC after 42 days with no new cases; the country began a 90-day period of heightened surveillance. Liberia began its latest countdown to transmission-free status on 3 DEC and could reach 42 days on or about 14 JAN 2016. Sierra Leone continues its 90-day period of heightened surveillance after being declared Ebola transmission-free on 7 NOV.

According to WHO's [30 DEC situation report](#), no new confirmed Ebola virus disease (EVD) cases were reported in West Africa during the week ending 27 DEC. The last confirmed cases were identified on 20 NOV when Liberia reported a cluster of three EVD cases in one family in Monrovia. WHO says the "cluster of cases in Liberia is now understood to have been a result of the re-emergence of Ebola virus that had persisted in a previously infected individual." None of 165 case contacts became ill, and all have completed their 21-day monitoring period. As of 11 DEC, 210 eligible recipients associated with the cluster had received the rVSV-ZEBOV Ebola vaccine as part of the Partnership for Research on Ebola Vaccines in Liberia (PREVAIL study).

As of 30 DEC, there have been 28,637 confirmed, suspected, and probable cases (11,315 deaths) in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Italy, Senegal, Nigeria, United Kingdom, Spain, Mali, and the United States.

On 15 DEC, WHO's eighth [Emergency Committee meeting on the EVD outbreak](#) found that the outbreak continued to constitute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) due to the potential for re-introduction of the virus in densely populated areas by the survivor populations. The committee described the current period as a "critical phase of transition." WHO considers the West Africa epidemic to be in a [phase 3 response](#), which implements specific actions to achieve and maintain zero virus transmission.

A growing volume of data from clinical observation and testing of recovered EVD patients indicates that Ebola virus can persist at various sites in the body for many months in some people, [according to WHO](#). CDC posted information on persistent medical conditions after recovery from EVD. A study by CDC researchers published in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) on 17 DEC showed that eight survivors treated in the U.S. have symptoms weeks to months after recovery that can range from mild to severe.

DoD RESPONSE: On 10 AUG, the Deputy Secretary of Defense signed a [memorandum](#) that extends, for at least one year following the 30 JUN 2015 end of OUA, selected DoD policies and EVD-related responsibilities, including those related to health surveillance, personal protective equipment, medical treatment for deployed DoD personnel, and transport of exposed or infected DoD personnel. DoD personnel continue to provide support to the Liberian Institute of Biomedical Research.

DIAGNOSTICS AND MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES: CDC's Laboratory Response Network (LRN) is deploying CDC's Ebola Virus NP and VP40 Real Time RT-PCR assays. These Emergency Use Authorization assays will replace DoD's Ebola Virus EZ1 Real Time RT-PCR assay. DoD's LRN labs will transition to the CDC assays. Additional information on [vaccines, therapies, and diagnostics](#) is available from WHO.

TRAVEL ADVISORY: On 29 DEC, CDC lowered its travel advisory for Guinea to [Watch - Level 1, Practice Usual Precautions](#). Advisories for [Sierra Leone](#) and [Liberia](#) were updated on 29 DEC but remain at Watch - Level 1, Practice Usual Precautions. [Travelers from Guinea are still subject to enhanced entry screening, but active monitoring is no longer required](#). Enhanced entry screening has been discontinued for travelers to the U.S. from Liberia and [Sierra Leone](#), and travelers from these countries are no longer being funneled through the [five U.S. airports](#) conducting the screening (JFK, Newark Liberty, Washington Dulles, Chicago O'Hare, and Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson). According to CDC, travelers from [Guinea](#), Liberia, and Sierra Leone should self-monitor for fever or other symptoms of Ebola for 21 days after departure; they should contact their state or local health department or seek healthcare if symptoms develop during this time. CDC updated its guidance for the [Assessment of Persons Under Investigation Having Low \(But not Zero\) Risk of Exposure to Ebola](#) on 1 DEC.

Text updated from the previous report will be printed in red; items in (+xx) represent the change in number from the previous AFHSB summary (17 DEC 2015).

All information has been verified unless noted otherwise. Sources include NCMI, WHO, CDC, and health agencies in the listed countries.

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Latest Available Ebola Case Counts in or Related to West Africa, 2014-2015

Country (as of date)	EVD Cases All / Lab Confirmed	Deaths All / Lab Confirmed	EVD Cases in HCW / Deaths	Contacts Being Followed
Guinea (29 DEC 2015)	3,804 / 3,351	2,536 / 2,083	196 / 100	0
Sierra Leone (8 NOV 2015)	14,122 / 8,704	3,955 / 3,589	307 / 221	0
Liberia (27 DEC 2015)	10,675 / 3,160	4,809 / NA	378 / 192	0
Italy (20 JUL 2015)	1 / 1***	0 / 0	1 / 0***	0
United Kingdom (22 JAN 2015)	1 / 1***	0 / 0	1 / 0***	0
United States (4 DEC 2014)	4 / 4**	1 / 1	3 / 0	0
Mali (21 DEC 2014)	8 / 7	6 / 5	2 / 2	0
Nigeria (17 SEP 2014)	20 / 19	8 / 7	11 / 5	0
Senegal (20 SEP 2014)	1 / 1*	0 / 0	0 / 0	0
Spain (2 DEC 2014)	1 / 1	0 / 0	1 / 0	0
Total (29 DEC 2015)	28,637 / 15,249	11,315 / 5,685[†]	900 / 520	0

[†]Excluding Liberia / *Imported from Liberia / **1 imported from Guinea / ***Imported from Sierra Leone / NA = Not Available.

Shaded rows represent countries which have been declared Ebola transmission-free by WHO.

The total number of cases, which includes suspect, probable, and confirmed cases, is subject to change due to reclassification, retrospective investigation, consolidation of cases and laboratory data, and enhanced surveillance.

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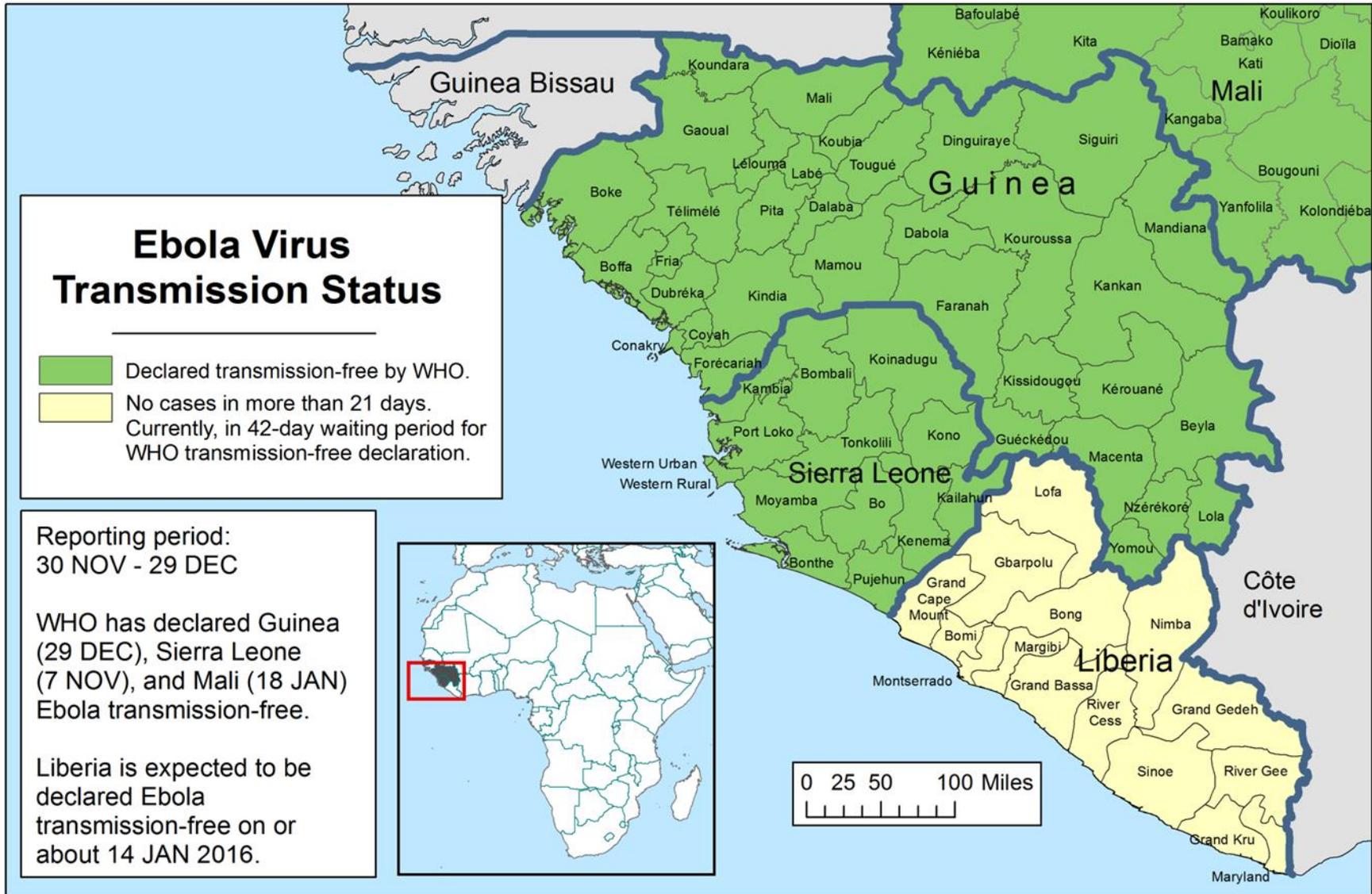
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All information has been verified unless noted otherwise. Sources include WHO and the Liberia Ministry of Health.

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Additional Resources and Media Reports

Ebola Web Sites

- [WHO](#)
- [CDC](#)
- [Liberia MOH](#)
- [Sierra Leone MOH](#)
- [Humanitarian Response \(West Africa\)](#)
Access to MOH, WHO, UN, and other reports
- [AFHSB Guidelines for Detecting and Reporting DoD Cases of Ebola Virus](#)
- [USAMRIID](#)
- [State Department Travel Site](#)
- [USAID Ebola Site](#)
- [DoD News](#)

Information and News

- [Ebola Situation Report - 30 December 2015](#) (WHO, 30 DEC)
- [End of Ebola transmission in Guinea](#) (WHO, 30 DEC)
- [Post-Ebola Signs and Symptoms in U.S. Survivors](#) (NEJM, 17 DEC)
- [Genomic Analysis Sheds Light on Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak in Liberia](#) (USAMRIID Press Release, 9 DEC)
- [Duration of Ebola virus RNA persistence in semen of survivors: population-level estimates and projections](#) (Eurosurveillance, 3 DEC)
- [Ebola crisis passes, but questions on quarantine persist](#) (NY Times, 2 DEC)
- [Assessment of persons under investigation having low \(but not zero\) risk of exposure to Ebola](#) (CDC, 1 DEC)
- [Amid failure and chaos, an Ebola vaccine](#) (NY Times, 24 NOV)
- [An indictment of Ebola response](#) (Harvard Gazette, 22 NOV)
- [Ebola Survivors](#) (CDC, 9 NOV)
- [Surveillance strategy during Phase 3 of the Ebola response](#) (WHO, 5 NOV)
- [Use of ChAd3-EBO-Z Ebola virus vaccine in Malian and US adults...](#) (Lancet Infectious Disease, 3 NOV)
- [Persistent virus in people recovering from Ebola virus disease](#) (WHO, 14 OCT)
- [Ebola response phase 3](#) (WHO, SEP 2015)
- [Termination of Operation United Assistance and maintaining certain DoD Ebola virus disease-related guidance and authorities](#) (U.S. DoD, 10 AUG)
- [Report of the Ebola Interim Assessment Panel](#) (WHO, 7 JUL)