

I. Executive summary

EU Threats

COVID-19 associated with SARS-CoV-2 – Multi-country (World) – 2019 - 2021

Opening date: 7 January 2020

Latest update: 16 April 2021

On 31 December 2019, the Wuhan Municipal Health and Health Commission reported a cluster of pneumonia cases of unknown aetiology with a common source of exposure at Wuhan's 'South China Seafood City' market. Further investigations identified a novel coronavirus as the causative agent of the respiratory symptoms for these cases. The outbreak rapidly evolved, affecting other parts of China and other countries worldwide. On 30 January 2020, WHO declared that the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), accepting the Committee's advice and issuing temporary recommendations under the International Health Regulations (IHR). On 11 March 2020, the Director-General of WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic.

→ Update of the week

Since week 2021-13 and as of week 2021-14, 4 869 194 new cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) and 86 772 new deaths have been reported.

Globally, since 31 December 2019 and as of 12 April 2021, 136 508 474 cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) have been reported, including 2 944 827 deaths.

In the EU/EEA, 28 496 538 cases have been reported, including 645 412 deaths.

More details are available [here](#). The latest daily situation update for EU/EEA is available [here](#).

Non EU Threats

Influenza – Multi-country – Monitoring 2020/2021 season

Opening date: 14 October 2020

Latest update: 16 April 2021

Reported influenza activity in Europe remained at interseasonal levels.

→ Update of the week

Week 14/2021 (05 April–11 April 2021)

Influenza activity remained at interseasonal levels.

Of the 948 specimens tested for influenza viruses in week 14/2021, from patients presenting with ILI or ARI symptoms to sentinel primary healthcare sites, two were positive for influenza type A viruses.

Influenza viruses were detected sporadically from non-sentinel sources (such as hospitals, schools, primary care facilities not involved in sentinel surveillance, nursing homes and other institutions). Both influenza type A and type B viruses were detected.

There was one hospitalised laboratory-confirmed influenza case from a non-ICU ward reported in week 14/2021.

Outbreak of Ebola virus disease in North Kivu – Democratic Republic of the Congo – 2021

Opening date: 9 February 2021

Latest update: 16 April 2021

On 7 February 2021, the Minister of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) declared an outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) after a laboratory-confirmed case was detected. The outbreak is in the North Kivu province in the eastern region of the DRC, where a large outbreak occurred between 2018 and 2020.

→ Update of the week

Since the last update on 9 April 2021, and as of 11 April 2021, no new cases nor deaths have been reported. The 42-day [countdown](#) to declaring the end of the outbreak began on 22 March 2021, a day after the last confirmed case of EVD tested negative for the second time and was released from the Ebola Treatment Centre (ETC) in Katwa. Therefore, as of 11 April 2021, 21 days remain to declaring the end of the outbreak, provided no new confirmed cases are detected.

In a recent [study](#), a new EVD laboratory method has been described. This ultra-sensitive immunoassay test could detect infection with the Zaire, Sudan and Bundibugyo ebolaviruses earlier than with PCR and be used as a point-of-care test. This test may facilitate the early detection and response to EVD outbreaks, particularly in low-resource settings.

Ebola virus disease in Nzérékoré – Guinea – 2021

Opening date: 19 February 2021

On 14 February 2021, an Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak was declared in the rural area of Gouéké in the N'Zérékore region, Guinea. Three cases were confirmed by the national laboratory and are the first confirmed cases reported since the 2013-2016 West Africa outbreak, which was the largest EVD outbreak ever recorded.

→ Update of the week

Since the last update on 9 April 2021, and as of 12 April 2021, no new cases or deaths have been reported.

Due to major challenges in the surveillance and response, it is likely that there are undetected chains of transmission, posing a risk of further disease clusters and greater geographical spread. Responders have faced resistance, especially from the village of Kpagalaye in the sub-prefecture Soulouta, where the most recent cases were reported.

[Sierra Leone](#) has been approved to receive 30 000 regimens (consisting of two doses) of the Zabdeno/Mvabea [Ebola vaccine](#) to be used preventively for people at high risk of the disease. The first batch of this vaccine arrived recently.

In a recent [study](#), a new EVD laboratory method has been described. This ultra-sensitive immunoassay test could detect infection with the Zaire, Sudan and Bundibugyo ebolaviruses earlier than PCR and be used as a point-of-care test. This test may facilitate early detection and response to EVD outbreaks, particularly in low-resource settings.

II. Detailed reports

COVID-19 associated with SARS-CoV-2 – Multi-country (World) – 2019 - 2021

Opening date: 7 January 2020

Latest update: 16 April 2021

Epidemiological summary

Summary: Since 31 December 2019 and as of week 2021-14, 136 508 474 cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) have been reported, including 2 944 827 deaths.

Cases have been reported from:

Africa: 4 346 813 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are South Africa (1 558 458), Morocco (502 102), Tunisia (271 861), Ethiopia (228 996) and Egypt (210 489).

Asia: 26 625 834 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are India (13 527 717), Iran (2 049 078), Indonesia (1 566 995), Iraq (924 946) and Philippines (864 868).

America: 58 946 038 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are United States (31 268 132), Brazil (13 517 808), Colombia (2 552 937), Argentina (2 551 939) and Mexico (2 289 304).

Europe: 46 521 544 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are France (5 058 680), Russia (4 641 390), United Kingdom (4 373 343), Turkey (3 849 011) and Italy (3 769 814).

Oceania: 67 540 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Australia (29 405), French Polynesia (18 652), Papua New Guinea (8 602), Guam (7 842) and New Zealand (2 227).

Other: 705 cases have been reported from an international conveyance in Japan.

Deaths have been reported from:

Africa: 115 664 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are South Africa (53 322), Egypt (12 445), Tunisia (9 293), Morocco (8 900) and Ethiopia (3 174).

Asia: 403 748 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are India (170 179), Iran (64 232), Indonesia (42 530), Pakistan (15 501) and Philippines (14 945).

America: 1 424 709 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are United States (562 533), Brazil (354 617), Mexico (210 755), Colombia (66 156) and Argentina (57 957).

Europe: 999 410 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are United Kingdom (127 100), Italy (114 254), Russia (102 986), France (98 778) and Germany (78 452).

Oceania: 1 290 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are Australia (909), French Polynesia (141), Guam (136), Papua New Guinea (69) and New Zealand (26).

Other: Six deaths have been reported from an international conveyance in Japan.

EU/EEA:

As of 12 April 2021, 28 496 538 cases have been reported in the EU/EEA: France (5 058 680), Italy (3 769 814), Spain (3 370 256), Germany (3 011 513), Poland (2 586 647), Czechia (1 581 184), Netherlands (1 355 617), Romania (1 008 490), Belgium (928 152), Sweden (873 035), Portugal (827 765), Hungary (725 241), Austria (573 944), Bulgaria (371 993), Slovakia (371 168), Greece (295 480), Croatia (292 938), Ireland (240 945), Denmark (238 306), Slovenia (226 787), Lithuania (226 783), Estonia (114 443), Latvia (107 608), Norway (103 620), Finland (82 278), Luxembourg (63 650), Cyprus (51 505), Malta (29 661), Iceland (6 267) and Liechtenstein (2 768).

As of 12 April 2021, 645 412 deaths have been reported in the EU/EEA: Italy (114 254), France (98 778), Germany (78 452), Spain (76 525), Poland (58 481), Czechia (27 918), Romania (25 248), Hungary (23 708), Belgium (23 518), Portugal (16 918), Netherlands (16 770), Bulgaria (14 418), Sweden (13 718), Slovakia (10 630), Austria (9 411), Greece (8 885), Croatia (6 333), Ireland (4 785), Slovenia (4 411), Lithuania (3 697), Denmark (2 443), Latvia (1 986), Estonia (1 037), Finland (874), Luxembourg (768), Norway (687), Malta (402), Cyprus (272), Liechtenstein (56) and Iceland (29).

The latest daily situation update for EU/EEA is available [here](#).

The [final report of the joint WHO-China study](#) on the origins of COVID-19 is now available on WHO's website.

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC):

On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 constitutes a PHEIC. On 11 March 2020, the Director-General of [WHO](#) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. The [third](#), [fourth](#), [fifth](#) and [sixth](#) International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee meeting for COVID-19 were held in Geneva on 30 April 2020, 31 July 2020, 29

October 2020, and 14 January 2021, respectively. The Committee concluded during these meetings that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to constitute a PHEIC.

ECDC assessment

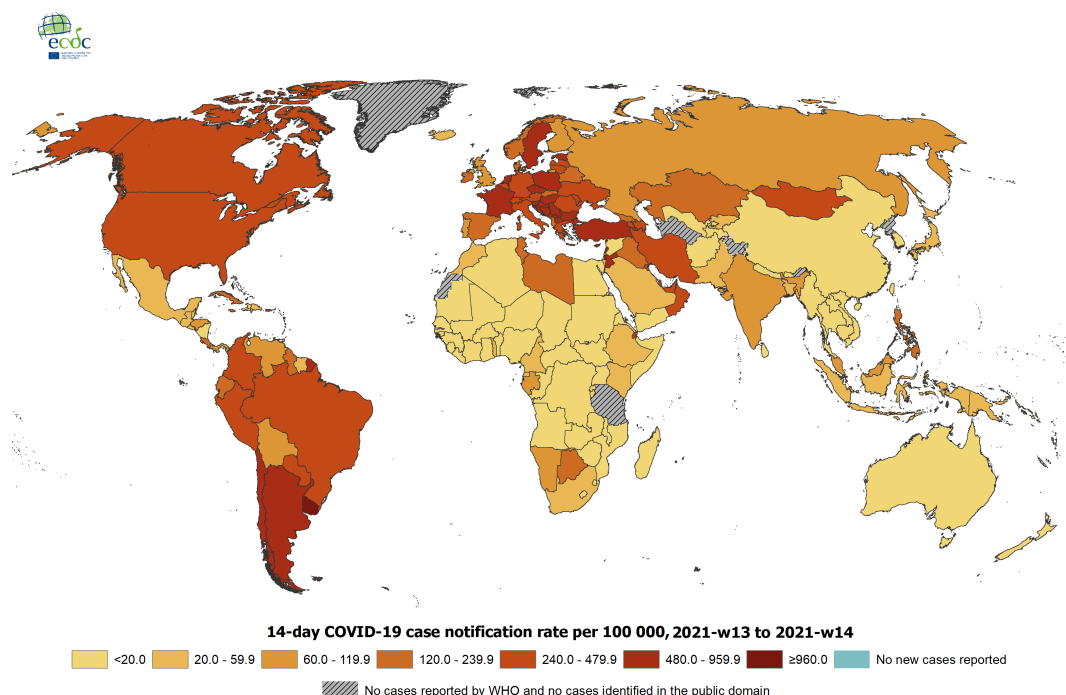
For the most recent risk assessment, please visit [ECDC's dedicated webpage](#).

Actions

Actions: ECDC published the 14th update of its [rapid risk assessment](#) on 15 February 2021. A [dashboard](#) with the latest updates is available on ECDC's website.

Geographic distribution of 14-day cumulative number of reported COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population, worldwide, 2021-w14 to 12 April 2021

Source: ECDC



Administrative boundaries: © EuroGeographics © UN-FAO © Turkstat. The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the European Union. Date of production: 15/04/2021

Influenza – Multi-country – Monitoring 2020/2021 season

Opening date: 14 October 2020

Latest update: 16 April 2021

Epidemiological summary

Week 14/2021 (05 April–11 April 2021)

Influenza activity remained at interseasonal levels.

Of the 948 specimens tested for influenza viruses in week 14/2021, from patients presenting with ILI or ARI symptoms to sentinel primary healthcare sites, two were positive for influenza type A viruses.

Influenza viruses were detected sporadically from non-sentinel sources (such as hospitals, schools, primary care facilities not involved in sentinel surveillance, nursing homes and other institutions). Both influenza type A and type B viruses were detected.

There was one hospitalised laboratory-confirmed influenza case from a non-ICU ward reported in week 14/2021.

2020-2021 season overview

For the European Region as a whole, influenza activity has been at baseline level since the start of the season.

In total, 816 specimens have tested positive for influenza viruses, 37 from sentinel sources and 779 from non-sentinel sources, with type A (both subtypes) and type B (both lineages) viruses being detected.

Since the start of the season, few hospitalised laboratory-confirmed influenza cases have been reported: 11 from ICUs (all infected with type A viruses); 13 (all type A viruses) in wards outside ICUs; and 20 from severe acute respiratory infection (SARI)-based surveillance (19 infected with type A viruses and one with type B).

The annual influenza epidemic in the European Region has usually peaked and been declining by this point in time but, despite widespread and regular testing for influenza viruses, reported influenza activity has remained at a very low level throughout the season, probably due to the impact of the various public health and social measures implemented to reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also affected healthcare seeking behaviour, healthcare provision, and testing practices and capacities in countries and areas of the European Region, which has had a negative impact on the collection of influenza epidemiological and virological data since March 2020. However, surveillance improved over the course of the 2020-2021 season and although there was a small decrease in the number of samples tested (~20%) compared with previous seasons, there was a remarkable drop (>99%) in the number of influenza infections detected, with numbers detected on a weekly basis being similar to those reported during interseasonal periods.

Sources: [EuroMOMO](#) | [Flu News Europe](#) | [Influenzanet](#)

ECDC assessment

Despite widespread and regular testing for influenza, reported influenza activity remains at a very low level, which is unusual. This is probably due to the impact of the various public health and social measures implemented to reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2.

The novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has also affected healthcare-seeking behaviour, healthcare provision, and testing practices and capacities in countries and areas of the European Region and this has had a negative impact on the reporting of influenza epidemiological and virological data during the 2020–2021 season.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the influenza data presented by ECDC will need to be interpreted with caution, notably in terms of seasonal patterns.

Actions

ECDC and WHO monitor influenza activity in the WHO European Region between week 40–2020 and week 20–2021. They publish their weekly report on the [Flu News Europe](#) website.

Outbreak of Ebola virus disease in North Kivu – Democratic Republic of the Congo – 2021

Opening date: 9 February 2021

Latest update: 16 April 2021

Epidemiological summary

Since the start of the outbreak (on 7 February 2021), and as of 11 April 2021, 12 EVD cases (11 confirmed and one probable), including six deaths, have been reported in the North Kivu province in the eastern region of the DRC. More specifically, the cases have been reported from the Biena (6), Butembo (3), Katwa (2), and Musienene (1) health zones. Since the start of the outbreak, two healthcare workers have been infected. Six patients have recovered and been integrated into the survivor's care programme. The 42-day countdown was initiated on 22 March 2021.

The index case was in a patient who sought treatment for Ebola-like symptoms at two healthcare centres in Butembo city in the

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Biena Health Zone from 25 January 2021 onwards, and was admitted to a hospital ICU ward in the Katwa health zone on 3 February 2021, where she died one day later. The EVD diagnostic was laboratory-confirmed on 6 February 2021. The source of infection of the index case in this outbreak is currently unknown and investigations are ongoing.

Results from genome sequencing confirmed that the first cases were infected with the Zaire ebolavirus species, [suggesting](#) that the ongoing outbreak is genetically linked to the 10th EVD outbreak that occurred between 2018 and 2020 in the North Kivu and Ituri provinces.

North Kivu provincial health authorities are leading the response, supported by WHO and the DRC Ministry of Health. The Ministry states that 11 contacts that have never been seen have not completed their 42-day follow-up as of 11 April 2021, and therefore continue to be sought to monitor for potential signs of EVD. A [vaccination campaign](#) was launched on 15 February 2021 in Butembo. The ring vaccination strategy was deployed, during which 1 898 contacts were vaccinated, including 542 healthcare workers.

According to WHO, there are a number of ongoing challenges for surveillance, including access to, and receiving a low number of alerts from, affected areas due to ongoing conflicts in the country and community mistrust towards authorities and outbreak responders. Further challenges include poor alert management, tracing contacts that are lost to follow-up, limited infrastructure for isolation of suspected cases, and insufficient financial resources to support all pillars of the response.

Background: The 10th EVD outbreak occurred in the eastern regions of the DRC, affecting the Kivu and Ituri provinces, where this ongoing outbreak is occurring. The 10th outbreak resulted in 3 470 cases, including 2 287 deaths. The start of the outbreak was declared in August 2018 and the end was [declared](#) on 25 June 2020. The 11th outbreak of EVD in the DRC was declared on 1 June 2020 and occurred on the western side of the country in the [Equateur Province](#). It culminated in 130 cases, including 55 deaths, and was [declared over](#) on 18 November 2020.

Sources: [WHO Regional Office for Africa](#) | [Ministere de la Sante Sitrep](#) | [WHO Disease Outbreak News](#) | [WHO Country Office DRC](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Weekly Afro Bulletin](#)

ECDC assessment

These EVD cases are the first reported in North Kivu, DRC, since the 10th outbreak was declared over in June 2020 (see the [Threat Assessment Brief](#) published on 22 February 2021 for more information). According to the current information, the health authorities in the DRC have been successful in controlling the outbreak as the number of cases has remained low (compared to previous outbreaks in the country) and no new cases have been reported recently. However, due to the above-mentioned difficulties, there is still a strong possibility that there will be further cases and spread. The COVID-19 pandemic and other ongoing outbreaks (such as cholera and measles) may also challenge the response.

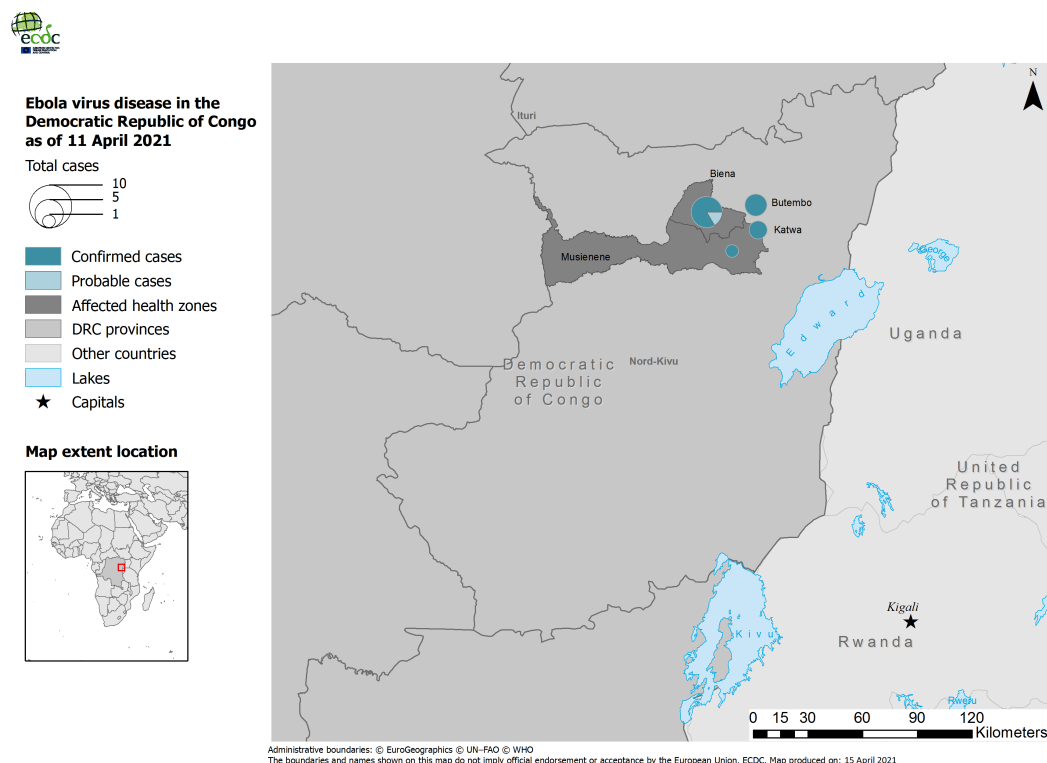
Overall, the current risk for European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA) citizens living in or travelling to affected areas in the DRC is considered low. While disease in unvaccinated people is severe and most EU/EEA citizens are not vaccinated against the disease, there is a very low likelihood of EU/EEA citizens becoming infected in the DRC. The current risk for citizens in the EU/EEA is considered very low, as the likelihood of introduction and secondary transmission within the EU/EEA is very low.

Actions

ECDC is following the situation through its epidemic intelligence activities. ECDC published a threat assessment brief, [EVD Outbreak in North Kivu, DRC](#), on 22 February 2021, in which options for response measures are described.

Geographical distribution of confirmed and probable Ebola virus disease cases in the DRC, 2021

Source: ECDC



Ebola virus disease in Nzérékoré – Guinea – 2021

Opening date: 19 February 2021

Epidemiological summary

Since the start of the outbreak (on 14 February 2021), and as of 12 April 2021, 23 EVD cases (16 confirmed and seven probable), including 12 deaths (from five confirmed and seven probable cases), have been identified. The most recently detected cases were reported on 1 April 2021. Among these, five healthcare workers were infected, resulting in two deaths (one confirmed and one probable case). All cases have been reported from the N'Zerekore prefecture in the region of N'Zerekore. Nine patients with confirmed EVD have recovered. The Agence Nationale de Sécurité Sanitaire (ANSS) also reported one case from the N'Zerekore region who escaped, having refused to go into isolation in a healthcare facility.

According to WHO, the initial cluster of seven cases began with a patient (index case) who died on 28 January 2021, after having visited two healthcare facilities and a traditional practitioner. Five family members who attended the funeral on 1 February and the traditional practitioner showed Ebola-like symptoms. Five of the seven cases died. Two unsafe burials took place for these EVD patients.

Preliminary results of genomic sequencing suggest a link between the 2021 and the 2013-2016 West Africa outbreaks. The re-emergence of the 2013-2016 West Africa epidemic strain would suggest that the index case was infected from a persistent source.

The vaccination campaign began on 23 February in Gouecke, N'Zerekore, and vaccines have been further deployed to the Boko and Kankan regions. The ring vaccination strategy is being deployed, whereby healthcare workers, contacts of EVD cases, contacts of contacts and suspected contacts are being vaccinated. As of 12 April, 5 920 people have been vaccinated, in the Conakry, Kindia, and N'Zerekore regions.

The response is being conducted by the Ministry of Health (MoH) of Guinea, WHO, and Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) partners. Measures are ongoing and WHO has supported the country in procuring an EVD vaccine, therapeutics, reagents, and personal protective equipment. To date, 32 960 vaccines have been deployed to Guinea. WHO considers the risk of spread in the country as very high, given the unknown size, duration and origin of the outbreak, the potentially large number of contacts, the potential spread to other parts of Guinea and neighbouring countries, and the limited

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response capacity currently on the ground. The Guinean MoH and GOARN partners are supporting case management and training teams in the practice of safe and dignified burials. Multidisciplinary teams are currently in the field to actively search and provide care for cases, trace and follow-up contacts, and increase awareness in communities of the need for infection prevention and control.

As the outbreak is located in a porous border area, WHO is also liaising with health authorities from Liberia and Sierra Leone to enhance surveillance activities in their bordering districts as well as strengthening their testing capacity and conducting surveillance in health facilities. WHO is also in contact with the bordering countries of Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal, and Guinea-Bissau. These countries have completed their national preparedness and readiness plans, and are on high alert, however their overall [estimated state of readiness](#) lies below the required benchmark. [Governmental representatives](#) of Guinea and the six bordering countries held a meeting on 2 March 2021, at which it was agreed to unify the response by setting up a coordination mechanism, increasing surveillance and screening at border crossings and in high-risk communities, and facilitating import regulations for vaccines. WHO assesses the risk for the region as high.

According to WHO, challenges remain in the surveillance and response, and include inadequate coordination in N'Zerekore, a lower number of alerts than expected and therefore too few samples being tested, problems locating contacts lost to follow-up, problems with the isolation of suspected patients, and the need for additional staff to strengthen field operations which are limited by insufficient funds.

Background: Guinea was one of the three most-affected countries in the 2013-2016 West Africa EVD outbreak, which was the largest since the virus was first discovered in 1976, and during which there were over 28 000 cases, including around 11 000 deaths. The outbreak started in Guinea and then moved across land borders to Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Sources: [WHO regional office for Africa](#) | [Ministry of health of Guinea](#) | [Agence Nationale de Sécurité Sanitaire \(ANSS\)](#) | [WHO Disease Outbreak News](#) | [WHO Regional Office for Africa Twitter](#) | [ANSS report](#) | [Weekly Afro Bulletin](#)

ECDC assessment

These EVD cases are the first cases of the disease reported in Guinea since 2016. Based on preliminary molecular studies, re-emergence of the virus from a persistently infected person from the 2013-2016 outbreak is hypothesised. However, importation via travellers from an Ebola virus-endemic country or a spill-over event from animal reservoirs cannot be ruled out as potential sources of the outbreak. Some bat species are reservoir hosts for Ebola virus in Central Africa. However, the evidence for competent animal reservoirs of the virus in West Africa is inconclusive, and the role of other animals, such as non-human primates as (intermediate) hosts remains unclear (see the [Threat Assessment Brief](#) published on 22 February 2021 for more information). The ongoing outbreak may spread to other areas within Guinea and/or to neighbouring countries. During the 2013-2016 outbreak in West Africa, Guinea acquired essential experience, which is an asset in order to be able to respond adequately to this outbreak. However, the current epidemiological data and situation reports indicate issues with the timely identification and isolation of cases necessary to prevent further transmission. The COVID-19 pandemic and other ongoing outbreaks (e.g. Yellow Fever and measles) may also challenge the response.

Overall, the current risk for European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA) citizens living in or travelling to affected areas in Guinea is considered low. While disease in unvaccinated people is severe and most EU/EEA citizens are not vaccinated against the disease, there is a very low likelihood of EU/EEA citizens becoming infected in Guinea. The current risk for citizens in the EU/EEA is considered very low, as the likelihood of introduction and secondary transmission within the EU/EEA is very low.

Actions

ECDC is following the situation through its epidemic intelligence activities. ECDC published a threat assessment brief, [EVD outbreak in Guinea](#), on 22 February 2021, in which options for response measures are described.

Geographical distribution of confirmed and probable Ebola virus disease cases in Guinea, 2021

Source: ECDC



Ebola virus disease in Guinea as of 12 April 2021

Total cases



- Confirmed cases
- Probable cases
- Affected prefectures
- Guinea regions
- Other countries
- ★ Capitals

Map extent location



Administrative boundaries: © EuroGeographics © UN-FAO
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The Communicable Disease Threat Report may include unconfirmed information which may later prove to be unsubstantiated.