



Ministry of Health, Liberia

Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak Response in Liberia: Information Bulletin-24 Nov 2015

Epidemiological Situation

- As of 23 November there are 3 confirmed cases, 8 probable and 6 suspected cases. One confirmed case (initial case) and one suspected case are deceased.
- All 3 confirmed EVD cases are from the same family from Duport Road Area in Monrovia, Montserrado.
- A total of 152 contacts had been listed and 138 (91%) had been followed.
- 8 of 10 high-risk contacts who are health care workers at JFK were moved to a confined site for precautionary observation.
- Nine field investigations have been undertaken, and all samples collected and tested have been negative.

Case Management

- As of 23 November, there were 17 cases in the ETU, including 6 suspected cases (1 deceased), 8 probable cases and 3 confirmed cases (1 deceased).
- 12 cases (probable and suspected) have been tested and are EVD negative. In line with established protocol, the cases will have repeat EVD tests and will be declared EVD negative only after 2 negative results.

Infection, Prevention and Control

- As of 23 November 2015, MOH and partners were reinforcing IPC measures to 67 priority health facilities in Monrovia. 75% of the facilities had received IPC assessments, revealing that most facilities had trained IPC and personal protective equipment (PPE).
- County Health Teams in the remaining 14 counties nationwide have also been requested to intensify IPC measures in their health facilities.
- A risk assessment has been conducted for seven HCWs at JFK finding that they are all low risk.
- Safe and Quality Healthcare Services (SQS) training for frontline health workers at JFK will commence on 30 November.

Community Engagement

- Intensified media messages highlighting measures that should be undertaken by members of the public are being disseminated by MOH and partners.
- A series of community engagement meetings with local community leaders and stakeholders have been held by the Montserrado County Health Team, the Outbreak Response Coordination Team, Ministry of Health and supported by partners.



Dead Body Management

- 18 swabs have been collected for dead bodies in Montserrado, 50% of the expected deaths in the county. 14 safe burials have been conducted.
- Rapid Diagnostic Testing for dead bodies will commence on 25 November.

Psychosocial Support

- Psychosocial teams visited confirmed cases, as well as contacts of the confirmed cases and provided psychosocial support and education. Follow up was also done to ensure that the contacts whose movements had been restricted in line with national protocols, were provided with food, water and other essentials.
- On 23 November a mental health and psychosocial support team visited 6 JFK health workers and the parents of the original case who was then deceased.

Logistics

- Additional quantities of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) supplies have been made available to the Ebola Treatment Unit in ELWA.
- Additional transport logistics (vehicles and motor-cycles) have been made available to support intensified outbreak response operations in Montserrado County.
- Systematic monitoring of IPC supplies in all health facilities is being intensified by MOH and partners.
- Essential supplies have been provided for six ambulances.

Coordination

- Daily Incident Management System (IMS) meetings held at the national Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 9 am. Participation at the IMS meetings on Monday-Thursday is restricted to designated technical partners and invited guests. The IMS on Friday is open to all partners and interested stakeholders.
- Daily county operational meetings are held at the Field EOC at the Duport Road Clinic.
- Daily Thematic Group meetings are held daily at the Field Operations Centre.
- Full matrix of members and timings of thematic group meeting have been circulated.

Ring Vaccination

- 58 community leaders participated in an engagement meeting in Paynesville, Monrovia with the MoH, Monserrado Response Team and partners to discuss Ebola ring vaccination strategy and community mobilization. Vaccination was met with wide support by the leaders, with 90% voting that it most helpful strategy to stop the spread of Ebola.



- The JFK Medical Director, Prevail, CDC and WHO convened a meeting to discuss vaccination of JFK and ELWA health care workers. The health care workers will be the first group to receive the vaccine, before it is administered at the community level.
- Social mobilization and contact tracing is being undertaken to identify and inform contacts, coordinate community messaging and prepare for field vaccination.



Dr. Francis Kateh, Deputy Minister of Health delivers an opening speech during the community meeting



Community leaders vote to support implementation of the Ebola vaccine

Further Information

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