



Round Table Report 9 February 2021

For restricted use

This report summarizes the ECDC daily roundtable discussion and provides update on threats detected and monitored by Epidemic Intelligence.

Active threat

COVID-19 associated with SARS-CoV-2 – multi-country (world) – 2019-2021

Other news:

On 8 February 2021, a [school](#) in Paris, France, was closed following recommendations from local health authorities due to an increased number of COVID-19 cases, including two cases of the SARS-CoV-2 501Y.V2 variant first identified in South Africa. On 9 February 2021, a three-day screening [campaign](#) started prioritising students and their families. Parents of positive cases are requested not to bring siblings of the cases to the school this week.

Other news

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

Source: [WHO Regional Office for Africa](#)

Summary: A new case of Ebola virus disease has been detected in Butembo, a city which lies in the province of North Kivu in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where a large outbreak was declared over in June 2020. The announcement came on 7 February 2021 by the DRC Ministry of Health.

Ebola has been laboratory confirmed in samples taken from a female patient who had sought treatment at a local healthcare centre, due to having Ebola-like symptoms. Her husband was an Ebola survivor, and she has since died.

North Kivu Provincial health authorities are currently leading the response and are supported by the WHO and the DRC Ministry of Health. The case is being investigated by WHO epidemiologists on-site, and so far more than 70 contacts have been identified. Samples from the confirmed case are undergoing genetic sequencing to determine the Ebola strain as well as whether the case is linked to the previous outbreak.

Background: Between May and July 2018, the ninth Ebola outbreak in the DRC occurred in Mbandaka, Bikoro and in the Equateur province, leading to a total of 54 cases, including 33 deaths. The 10th Ebola outbreak occurred in the eastern part of the country, where this most recent case has been detected, and which resulted in 3 470 cases, including 2 287 deaths. It was first declared an outbreak in August 2018 and was [declared over](#) on 25 June 2020. The 11th outbreak of Ebola virus disease in the DRC was declared on 1 June 2020 and took place on the western side of the country in [Equateur Province](#). It culminated to 130 cases and 55 deaths, and was

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[declared over](#) by the minister of health on 18 November 2020.

Assessment: The risk of a flare-up of cases in the DRC remains. In addition, as the virus is present in the animal reservoir in many parts of the country, Ebola outbreaks are recurrent. The currently available information is not sufficient to assess the likelihood of further or more widespread transmission with high confidence. Continuing response measures and follow-up of survivors are essential to detect and interrupt transmission early on. Response measures might be challenging amid other outbreaks in the country. As the current response is mostly conducted by locals, combined with the vaccine availability, this leads to a low likelihood of EU/EEA citizens being infected in the DRC, provided they adhere to recommended precautionary measures. For the general EU/EEA citizens, there is a very low likelihood of exposure, especially with current travel limitations. The likelihood of introduction and further spread of the Ebola virus within the EU/EEA remains very low.

Action: ECDC will follow the situation through Epidemic Intelligence. Options for response measures are described in the ECDC [rapid risk assessment](#) on the 10th Ebola outbreak in the DRC updated on 7 August 2019.

Risk assessment under production

Joint ECDC and EFSA rapid outbreak assessment to be produced on *Salmonella* Enteritidis contamination in poultry products from Poland to be published 18 February 2021.

Fourteenth Rapid Risk Assessment on SARS-CoV-2 in the EU/EEA in the context of increased circulation of variants of concern and vaccine rollout, to be circulated to EC and MS on 12 February and published to ECDC website on 15 February.

The Round Table Report contains information that could be considered sensitive or is still under verification. Its distribution is restricted to intended users only.

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Emerging and Vector-borne Diseases: -
Food and Water-borne Diseases: -
Influenza: -
Microbiology Coordination: -