



## Ebola outbreak in DRC: WAHO closely monitoring the situation

- On 8 May 2018, the Ministry of Health (MoH) of the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared an outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in Bikoro Health Zone, Equateur Province. This is the ninth outbreak of Ebola virus disease over the last four decades in the country, with the most recent one occurring in May 2017.
- As at 17 May 2018, 45 EVD cases have been reported, including in three health care workers, and 25 deaths have been reported. Of these 45 cases, 14 have been confirmed. Most of these cases have been in the remote Bikoro health zone, although one confirmed case is in Mbandaka, a city of 1.2 million, which has implications for its rapid spread.
- The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has several characteristics that are of particular concern namely the risk of more spread given that Ebola has now spread to an urban area (city of Mbandaka).
- The WHO assessment of the risk for regional spread of the disease to ECOWAS countries is moderate. However the recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease and the geographical spread of Lassa fever and dengue outbreaks bear witness to this trend in West Africa. The ECOWAS region is therefore not totally spared and health authorities must be vigilant.
- WAHO is therefore recommending that Member States should strengthen the community-based and facility-based surveillance as for Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR), and is available to provide support in this regard.
- WHO advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions.
- WAHO is monitoring the situation in DRC and is in touch with WHO-AFRO and health authorities of the ECOWAS countries; and we encourage all to visit our website [www.wahooas.org](http://www.wahooas.org) for updates on the EVD situation in DRC.
- Measures are also ongoing to ensure the publication of an updated weekly report on this issue.

**For additional information please visit:** <http://www.who.int/ebola/en/>

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**About The West African Health Organization (WAHO):** WAHO is the specialized institution of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) responsible for health issues. Its mission is to attain the highest possible standard and protection of health of the peoples in the sub-region through the harmonization of the policies of the Member States, pooling of resources, and cooperation with one another and with others for a collective and strategic fight against the health problems of the sub-region".

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