

**INTERNATIONAL OUTBREAKS OF IMPORTANCE**

## Marburg virus disease, Guinea

A case of Marburg virus disease (MVD) was reported in the Gueckedou Prefecture in the Nzerekore Region of south-western Guinea. A 46-year-old male farmer and resident of Temessadou M'Boke, 9 km from the Sierra Leone border, demised on 3 August 2021 and was diagnosed on post-mortem sampling. The patient first developed symptoms on 25 July, and presented to the local clinic on 1 August with fever, headache, fatigue, abdominal pain, and gingival haemorrhage. The source of infection has not yet been identified.

MVD, formerly known as Marburg haemorrhagic fever, is a severe disease with a high case fatality rate. Though caused by different viruses, Ebola virus disease (EVD) and MVD are clinically similar. Transmission occurs via direct contact with blood and body fluids from infected persons, contact with *Rousettus* bat colonies, or via infected semen from infected persons up to seven weeks post recovery. Suspected cases may present with a sudden onset of fever (>38.5°C) and should have at least three

of the following signs and symptoms:

- Headaches, lethargy, myalgia, or
- abdominal pain, vomiting, anorexia, loss of appetite, diarrhoea, difficulty in swallowing, hiccups, bloody diarrhoea, or
- bleeding from gums, bleeding into skin (purpura), bleeding into eyes and urine.

The current outbreak in Guinea involves one confirmed case and remains localized. Further detailed investigation to identify the source of infection, as well as contact tracing, is ongoing. A high risk for trans-border transmission exists as there is frequent international movement between Gueckedou in Guinea and districts of Foya in Liberia and Kailahun in Sierra Leone. The Ministry of Health together with WHO, USCDC, Alima, Red Cross, UNICEF, FAO, and other partners have initiated measures to control the outbreak and prevent further spread.

## Ebola virus disease, Cote d'Ivoire

On 14 August 2021, a case of Ebola virus disease (EVD) was confirmed in Cote d'Ivoire at Abidjan Hospital. The case-patient is an 18-year-old female, who had travelled from Labe in Guinea to Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, by public transport. The patient presented to a local clinic on 12 August 2021 with fever, headache, and bleeding from her gums and genitals. Samples were sent to Institut Pasteur de Cote d'Ivoire for testing and the regions first case of EVD in 25 years was confirmed. The current outbreak in Cote d'Ivoire involves one confirmed case and a one suspected case. Preliminary information suggests the suspected case is a family member and direct contact of the first case. A total of 9 direct contacts has been traced.

On 22 August 2021, Burkina Faso announced the detection of a suspected case of EVD at the Bogodogo University Hospital Center in Ouagadougou. The patient is thought to have travelled from Cote d'Ivoire. As of 24 August 2021, no EVD related deaths have been reported. Cote d'Ivoire's public health response to the EVD outbreak has been appropriate with implementation of the necessary public health measures. Cote d'Ivoire has received 5 000 doses of the Ebola vaccine from WHO and has vaccinated 828 people to date.