Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak Toolbox
Updated: October 2022

Key reference documents

• Ebola virus disease information page (Geneva: World Health Organization).

Case definitions (used for Ebola and Marburg virus diseases)

WHO suggested outbreak case definition

Suspected case:

• any person, alive or dead, suffering or having suffered from sudden onset of high fever, and had contact with:
  o a suspected, probable, or confirmed Ebola case, or a dead or sick animal; OR
• any person with sudden onset of high fever, AND at least three of the following symptoms: headache, lethargy, anorexia/loss of appetite, aching muscles or joints, stomach pain, difficulty swallowing, vomiting, difficulty breathing, diarrhoea, hiccups; OR
• any person with inexplicable bleeding; OR
• any sudden, inexplicable death.

Probable case:

• any suspected case evaluated by a clinician, OR
• any deceased suspected case (where it has not been possible to collect specimens for laboratory confirmation) having an epidemiological link with a confirmed case.

Confirmed case:

• any suspected or probable case with a positive laboratory result (detection of Ebola virus by reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), or detection of Immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibodies directed against Ebola viruses).

1 See: Case definition recommendations for Ebola or Marburg virus diseases (Geneva: World Health Organization; 2014).
2 Case definition to be used by mobile teams, health stations and health centres. Adapt as needed to new clinical presentations or different modes of transmission related to the local event.
3 Case definitions for exclusive use by hospitals and surveillance teams.
Discarded case:\(^3\)
- any suspected or probable case with a negative laboratory result (showing no specific antibodies, ribonucleic acid (RNA) or specific detectable antigens).

\(^1\)Case definitions for exclusive use by hospitals and surveillance teams.

WHO surveillance case definition
- Case definition recommendations for Ebola or Marburg virus diseases (Geneva: World Health Organization; 2014).

WHO other definition

Definition of a contact of a case:
- any person having been exposed to a suspected, probable or confirmed case of Ebola virus infection, less than 21 days before the identification as a contact by surveillance teams, in at least one of the following ways:
  - slept in the same household with a case
  - direct physical contact with the case (alive or dead) during the illness
  - direct physical contact with the (dead) case at the funeral
  - touched his/her blood or body fluids during the illness
  - touched his/her clothes or linen
  - been breastfed by a patient (baby).

Dead or sick animal contacts
- Any person having been exposed to a sick or dead animal, less than 21 days before the identification as a contact by surveillance teams, in at least one of the following ways:
  - direct physical contact with the animal
  - direct contact with the animal’s blood or body fluids
  - carved up the animal
  - eaten raw bush-meat

Laboratory contacts
- Any person having been exposed to biological material in a laboratory, less than 21 days before the identification as a contact by surveillance teams, in at least one of the following ways:
  - has had direct contact with specimens collected from suspected Ebola patients
  - has had direct contact with specimens collected from suspected Ebola animal cases

- Other infection risk factors include contact with a hospital where Ebola cases are being treated; injection or vaccination in the 21 days preceding the onset of symptoms.
- The contact person should be followed for 21 days after exposure. If the contact person is asymptomatic for 21 days after exposure, they can be released the follow-up

Data collection tools
- Case investigation forms:
- Line list: Not available.
- Electronic tools:
  - *WHO Godata 2.0 software: contact godata@who.int*

**Laboratory confirmation**

- *Ebola and Marburg virus disease epidemics: preparedness, alert, control, and evaluation, Interim version 1.2* (Geneva: World Health Organization; 2014 (Chapter 4 and associated annexes)).

**Response tools and resources**

- Contact tracing: *WHO Godata 2.0 software: contact godata@who.int*
- *Contact tracing during an outbreak of Ebola virus disease* (Brazzaville: WHO Regional Office for Africa; 2014)

**Training**


**Other resources**
• Managing epidemics: key facts about major deadly diseases (Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018).
• Standard precautions for the prevention and control of infections: aide-memoire (Geneva: World Health Organisation; 2022)