

Case Definitions for Ebola virus disease

Suspected Case (under investigation)

- a person with a clinical illness compatible with EVD *

AND, within 21 days before onset of illness, EITHER

- a history of travel to the affected areas**

OR

- close contact with a probable or confirmed case ***

OR

- exposure to EVD-infected blood or other body fluids or tissues

OR

- direct handling of bats, rodents, or primates, from disease-endemic areas

Probable Case

- a suspected case with no possibility of laboratory confirmation for EVD either because the patient or samples are not available for testing

Confirmed Case

- a suspected case with laboratory confirmation (positive serology or PCR).

* sudden onset of fever with additional symptoms such as intense weakness, headache, myalgia, abdominal pain, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhoea or unexplained haemorrhage. Initial symptoms are usually not specific and worsen after a few days, with prostration, rash, evidence of capillary leak, bleeding/haemorrhage, shock and impaired consciousness. Please note that during the current outbreak in West Africa, haemorrhagic symptoms have been reported less frequently than non-specific symptoms.

** Affected areas in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria in Western Africa (see the map at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/resources/distribution-map-guinea-outbreak.html>)

*** Close contact includes:

- Direct physical contact with the case during the illness****
- Direct physical contact with the case post mortem****
- Having touched case's blood or body fluids during the illness****
- Having touched case's clothes or linens during the illness****
- Having been breastfed by the case

**** Without the appropriate infection prevention and control measures
[based on World Health Organization guidance]