

Media centre

WHO declares end of Ebola outbreak in Nigeria

Statement

20 October 2014

The Ebola virus was introduced into Nigeria on 20 July when an infected Liberian man arrived by aeroplane into Lagos, Africa's most populous city. The man, who died in hospital 5 days later, set off a chain of transmission that infected a total of 19 people, of whom 7 died.

According to WHO recommendations, the end of an Ebola virus disease outbreak in a country can be declared once 42 days have passed and no new cases have been detected. The 42 days represents twice the maximum incubation period for Ebola (21 days). This 42-day period starts from the last day that any person in the country had contact with a confirmed or probable Ebola case.

Today, 20 October, Nigeria reached that 42-day mark and is now considered free of Ebola transmission.

WHO commends the Nigerian Government's strong leadership and effective coordination of the response that included the rapid establishment of an Emergency Operations Centre.

When the first Ebola case was confirmed in July, health officials immediately repurposed technologies and infrastructures from WHO and other partners to help find cases and track potential chains of transmission of Ebola virus disease.

WHO, United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), UNICEF and other partners supported the Nigerian Government with expertise for outbreak investigation, risk assessment, contact tracing and clinical care.

Strong public awareness campaigns, teamed with early engagement of traditional, religious and community leaders, also played a key role in successful containment of this outbreak.

The Nigerian government and staff in the WHO country office are well aware that the country remains vulnerable to another imported case. The surveillance system remains at a level of high alert.

Nigeria has revised its national preparedness and response plan to ensure that the country is well prepared for other imported cases of the disease.

[Nigeria is now free of Ebola virus transmission](#)Situation assessment - 20 October 2014

For more information, contact:

Fadéla Chaib

Communications Officer, World Health Organization

Telephone: +41 22 791 32 28

Mobile: +41 79 475 55 56

E-mail: chaibf@who.int

Tarik Jasarevic

WHO Department of Communications

Telephone: +41 22 791 50 99

Mobile: +41 79 367 62 14

E-mail: jasarevict@who.int

Related links[Nigeria is now free of Ebola virus transmission](#)

Situation assessment

20 October 2014

[All situation assessments on Ebola](#)[How is the end of an Ebola outbreak decided and declared?](#)[Ebola virus disease - website](#)