Chapter 7 Simmering to the End (January 2015–June 2016)



Abstract By January 2015, the Ebola outbreak was clearly in decline. Liberia and Guinea both had falling caseloads. Sierra Leone had high case levels at the start of 2015, but soon these too began to fall. On March 5, 2015, Liberia released its last known Ebola patient. In mid-March 2015, Sierra Leone launched a new 3-day, nationwide lockdown to find and contain the last few cases. Things looked very positive. But then, in a pattern that would repeat itself in the coming months, a new case suddenly emerged in Liberia. The virus began to show an extraordinary ability to reemerge from undetected chains of transmission. It also became clear that the semen of survivors remained infectious long after the survivors had recovered. In October 2015, a frightening new twist occurred when a UK Ebola survivor developed Ebola-related meningitis almost 9 months after she had recovered from the disease. Despite numerous setbacks and flare-ups, the West African Ebola outbreak was declared officially over on January 14, 2016. Sadly, the very next day – January 15, 2016 – a new Ebola case was detected in Sierra Leone. New cases then began to emerge in Guinea and Liberia. Another round of containment and contact tracing commenced. Finally, by June 9, 2016, all of the new cases had resolved and the 2013-2016 outbreak came to an end.

7.1 Day-by-Day Outbreak Entries (January 2015–June 2016)

January 1, 2015 (Thursday)

President of Sierra Leone Ernest Bai Koroma called on the nation to begin a week of fasting and prayer to end the Ebola outbreak (Reuters 2015a). He also acknowledged that the restrictions imposed by Ebola are a significant hardship for the country:

I know what we are being asked to do is very difficult; we are a people that have built our humanity on hugging each other, on shaking hands, on caring for the sick and showing communal empathy by participating in funeral activities. But today the Ebola devil of illness and death hides in the innocent clothing of our culture to get us. (Reuters 2015a)

All of the passengers on Pauline Cafferkey's Heathrow to Glasgow flight have been traced. The NHS in Scotland has requested that eight passengers monitor their temperature for 20 days and report any symptoms. These are the passengers who sat in the area immediately around Cafferkey. They include people who sat two rows in front and two rows behind the infected nurse (Booth 2015).

January 2, 2015 (Friday)

Unconfirmed reports suggest that Muslim fighters for the Islamic State (i.e., ISIS) in Mosul, Iraq, may have contracted Ebola (Daily Mail 2015; Strum 2015). The WHO is trying to investigate, but UN workers are banned from ISIS territory. If the rumors are true, and at present they are considered very unlikely, it is unclear how the disease could have reached the area. Some ISIS fighters have been recruited from West Africa, so they could have brought the disease to Iraq with them (Daily Mail 2015). ISIS members may also have become infected while preparing for a biological terror attack.

A South Korean medical worker may have been exposed to Ebola while collecting a blood sample in Sierra Leone. The worker will be transported to Germany for observation (IANS 2015a).

The infected 50-year-old Italian doctor [Fabrizio Pulvirenti] being treated at Rome's Spallanzani Institute has recovered from Ebola (AFP 2015a, p). He was evacuated from Sierra Leone in mid-November 2014.

Gambia Bird Airlines has suspended all flights effective immediately. It will reimburse passengers with existing bookings. All flights have been suspended, not just those to Ebola-affected areas. The company did not explain why its flights have been canceled, but the West African airline has been heavily impacted by the Ebola outbreak (Gill 2015).

January 3, 2015 (Saturday)

Pauline Cafferkey is now in critical condition. Her condition has been deteriorating over the last 2 days (BBC 2015a).

The Hastings Treatment Center in Sierra Leone released its thirteenth batch of Ebola survivors today. Among them is a 2-month-old baby, one of the youngest Ebola survivors known. At the release ceremony, survivors were given a package of food and supplies and ~\$60 to help them return home. To date, the Hastings Treatment Center has released about 400 survivors (Awoko 2015a).

The South Korean medic exposed to Ebola has been airlifted to Charite hospital in Berlin, Germany. The healthcare worker was working with a delirious Ebola patient when the patient jerked and a blood-filled syringe pierced the medic's gloves (Associated Press 2015a).

January 4, 2015 (Sunday)

Sierra Leone has extended the Ebola lockdown of the northern Tonkolili District for an additional 2 weeks (AFP 2015b). Ebola screenings will also be adjusted at Freetown International Airport (APA 2015a). The change comes after an airport worker contracted Ebola and exposed another person to the virus. Employees will

now have their temperatures taken at the entrance to the airport and the entrance to the terminal (APA 2015a).

A US healthcare worker who suffered a high-risk Ebola exposure in Sierra Leone has been transferred to the Biocontainment Unit at Nebraska Medicine in Omaha for observation (Silva 2015).

January 5, 2015 (Monday)

Nine counties in southeast Liberia have reported no new Ebola cases for the last 21 days (Dixon 2015). Lofa County in northern Liberia has reported no new cases for over 40 days (Dixon 2015). Not all of the news from Liberia is good, however. Every mother in the village of Joeblow has died from Ebola (Knapton 2015). A total of 14 mothers have died, leaving 15 children orphaned (Knapton 2015).

With the falling number of Ebola cases, the Liberian government has decided it is time for students to return to school. Liberian schools will reopen on February 2, 2015 (Reuters 2015b).

British nurse Pauline Cafferkey remains in critical condition, but her condition has stabilized (Gallagher 2015).

All supplies of the experimental Ebola drug ZMapp are exhausted. More antibodies for the drug are being grown in genetically modified tobacco plants and it is hoped more of the drug will be available soon. So far during the outbreak, seven people have been treated with ZMapp. Five of them have survived and two have died (Boseley 2015a).

UNICEF, in conjunction with the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, is launching an app in West Africa entitled #ISurvivedEbola. The goal is to reduce the stigma of Ebola and help survivors adjust back into their communities. Ebola survivors in Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia will be given smartphones to document their stories and share tips about how to cope with returning home (Reuters 2015c).

The United States will stop screening travelers from Mali starting Tuesday, January 6, 2015 (Caldwell 2015).

January 6, 2015 (Tuesday)

House-to-house searches for Ebola victims continue in Sierra Leone. Daniel Bob Jones is the leader of a search team working in the Freetown slums of Bonga Town and Crab Town. He says there is plenty of space available in Ebola clinics now. Even so, his team has a hard time convincing people there is enough room available to care for all of the victims (Dunn 2015a).

Medical workers at the hospital in Makeni, Sierra Leone, have ended their strike. The government has met the worker's demands and promises to pay their hazard pay (O'Carroll 2015a).

Clinical trials of the antiviral drug brincidofovir have stared at the ELWA-3 Ebola center in Monrovia, Liberia (ABC News 2015a).

The United Kingdom has tightened its screening procedures for healthcare workers returning from West Africa. Any worker who had contact with Ebola patients and reports feeling ill will be isolated and assessed. The move comes after the confusion surrounding the arrival of infected nurse Pauline Cafferkey. Cafferkey felt

sick at Heathrow airport and requested multiple temperature screenings. Even so, she was still allowed to travel from London to Glasgow (Merrifield 2015).

The WHO says there are no Ebola cases in Iraq (Outbreak News Today 2015a). The claims that ISIS fighters were infected with the disease were only rumors.

There are currently 2542 US troops helping with the Ebola outbreak in West Africa (Tilghman 2015a).

January 7, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 20,747 (541 new) Fatalities: 8235 (330 new) (World Health Organization 2015a)

A new Ebola treatment center and laboratory will open tomorrow in Kono District, Sierra Leone (Samba 2015a).

The Australian Ebola clinic at the Hastings Airfield near Freetown, Sierra Leone, has released its first Ebola survivor, 11-year-old Aminata Bangura. The staff plans to have survivors leave handprints on one of the clinic's walls. Aminata's print is the first. So far, the clinic has admitted 37 patients. It opened in December 2014 (Yenko 2015).

Over 100 burial teams in Sierra Leone are being funded by the United Kingdom. A member of Red Cross Burial Team 9 in Freetown says the teams try to support the customs of Ebola victims. If the victim's relatives provide a coffin, the body is buried in the coffin. If the family wants the deceased dressed in special clothes, the team dresses them as requested. The goal is to let families know their loved one is respected and is being given a dignified funeral (Mazumdar 2015a).

January 8, 2015 (Thursday)

Officials in Sierra Leone think Operation *Western Area Surge* is being very successful. They have decided to extend it for another 2 weeks. So far, the campaign has identified 941 suspected Ebola cases, 243 of whom have tested positive for the disease (APA 2015b).

Pujehun District in Sierra Leone has been declared Ebola-free. The district has gone 42 days without a new Ebola case. The first confirmed case occurred in the district on August 8, 2014. The last occurred on November 26, 2014. There have been 31 confirmed cases and 24 deaths in the district. Pujehun District is the first district in Sierra Leone to become Ebola-free (AllAfrica 2015a).

With the number of Ebola cases falling, the Liberian Football Federation has restarted competitive soccer matches in Liberia. Games were stopped in late July 2014 due to the outbreak (Baber 2015).

Workers at the crematorium in Boys Town, Liberia, face significant stigma. Cremation is disliked in Liberia and residents often ridicule or threaten the workers. Out of fear of attack, the 30 or so workers live at the crematorium. They have trouble obtaining food because locals do not want them visiting the markets (Andrews 2015).

Coming Attractions Bridal & Formal in Tallmadge, Ohio, will permanently close at the end of January 2015. Infected nurse Amber Vinson visited the store in October 2014 just before she was diagnosed with Ebola. The store had to temporarily close and the owners lost an estimated \$100,000. The losses were due to a viral illness, so they were not covered by the store's insurance policy (Associated Press 2015b).

January 9, 2015 (Friday)

Operation *Stop Ebola* has been launched in two communities outside of Monrovia, Liberia. Ebola cases are still occurring in Clara Town and New Kru Town, possibly because the residents are not aggressively following anti-Ebola protocols. The goal of the operation is to increase Ebola awareness in the communities through fliers, brochures, and public addresses (Fahngon 2015).

Schools in Sierra Leone remain closed and will not be reopened until the number of Ebola cases falls. Officials hope classes will start by the end of March 2015. If schools do not reopen by May 2015, the entire school year will have been lost due to the outbreak (Kamara 2015a).

MSF has opened a new Ebola treatment center in Kissy, Sierra Leone, on the outskirts of Freetown. The facility is on the grounds of Methodist Boys High School. The center has 20 beds, but will expand to 80 beds. It will focus on treating pregnant women (PRN 2015a).

The number of tourists visiting Sierra Leone has dramatically fallen. In January 2014, 1532 tourists arrived at Lungi airport. In November 2014, only 191 arrived (Awoko 2015b).

The WHO has concluded that two Ebola vaccines, one made by GlaxoSmithKline the other by Merck and NewLink, have acceptable safety profiles. Additional trials of these vaccines will soon begin with West Africa volunteers (Cheng 2015a).

January 10, 2015 (Saturday)

Kailahun District in Sierra Leone has gone 27 days without a new Ebola case (O'Carroll 2015b).

January 11, 2015 (Sunday)

Ebola often causes a skin rash. Sometimes this rash is extremely dramatic. American doctor, Dr. Joel Selanikio, describes the condition of 16-year-old Hawa whom he treated in Lunsar, Sierra Leone:

I pulled away her blanket and I found that rather than just having a rash, her entire body surface was peeling off in thick pieces revealing very red, painful-looking skin underneath.

Honestly, every person around that bed literally gasped when they saw what she looked like. It was like a burn victim. I've honestly never seen anything like it, except in a burn victim. (Weekend Edition 2015)

The Ebola outbreak is significantly affecting family budgets in Sierra Leone. A market woman says a fish used to cost \$2.33; now one costs \$3.51. The income of one taxi driver, a victim of the now decimated tourist industry, has been cut in half. He currently lives on about \$8.50 per day (Dunn 2015b).

With fewer Ebola cases occurring in Liberia, a 20-man Liberian ambulance team has been transferred to Sierra Leone (Brooks C 2015a).

Pauline Cafferkey is being treated with blood plasma from Ebola survivor William Pooley (Daily Record 2015).

January 12, 2015 (Monday)

Some communities in Sierra Leone are enforcing their own anti-Ebola regulations. Pa Alimamy Bongo, the section chief of Rokupa in the east end of Freetown, says his community imposes a \$20–50 fine for shaking hands. They also have a \$100 fine for failing to report a sick family member or for allowing a visitor to stay in a person's house without pre-approval from a community elder (World Bulletin 2015).

Infected British nurse, Pauline Cafferkey is no longer critically ill and is showing signs of improvement (BBC 2015b).

January 13, 2015 (Tuesday)

A male Red Cross nurse has died from Ebola in Kenema, Sierra Leone (ABC News 2015b).

The 163-member Chinese medical team started working in Liberia on December 23, 2014. So far they have treated 67 patients. These include 5 confirmed and 45 suspected Ebola patients (Xinhua News Agency 2015a).

The CDC laboratory worker who was exposed to live Ebola samples in Atlanta has not developed Ebola (Stobbe 2015). Similarly, the patient who arrived at the Nebraska treatment center during the first week of January 2015 has not developed Ebola (Associated Press 2015c).

January 14, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 21,296 (549 new) Fatalities: 8429 (194 new) (World Health Organization 2015b)

A mob in Dar es Salaam, Guinea, killed two police officers they thought were spreading Ebola. The incident began when three police officers and a driver gave a sedative to a sick local healer. The healer died soon afterward and the villagers assumed the death was related to the injection. In response, the villagers attacked the officers with machetes and clubs and set fire to their bodies. Two of the officers died; the third was injured (AFP 2015c).

President of Sierra Leone Ernest Bai Koroma predicts that Sierra Leone will have no new Ebola cases by the end of March 2015. He also thinks the country will be Ebola-free by May 2015 (ABC News 2015c).

Twelve of Liberia's 15 counties have had no Ebola cases in the last 7 days (APA 2015c).

The World Bank says the Ebola outbreak is having a major impact on household finances in Liberia. About 60% of women and 40% of men are currently out of work. To make up for lost income, 80% of families have sold assets, slaughtered livestock, borrowed money, or spent savings (DeCapua 2015).

An Ebola scare has occurred in Killeen, Texas. Yesterday ~730 h, the body of a 24-year-old US soldier was found on the doorstep of his off-base apartment (Vanden Brook and Locker 2015; KVUE and KCEN 2015). The soldier had recently returned from Liberia and was self-monitoring for Ebola symptoms. A pool of vomit was found near his body (Vanden Brook and Locker 2015). Despite the major concern about Ebola, preliminary Ebola tests have been negative (Vanden Brook and Locker 2015; KVUE and KCEN 2015).

All players arriving in Equatorial Guinea for the Africa Cup of Nations soccer tournament will be tested for Ebola. Anyone displaying symptoms or refusing to be tested will be quarantined for 21 days (Reuters 2015d)

Emory University Hospital says it has collected 18 units of plasma from Ebola survivors (Fox 2015a).

January 15, 2015 (Thursday)

Ebola caseloads are significantly declining in West Africa. Last week, Sierra Leone and Guinea had the lowest numbers of new Ebola cases since August 2014 (BBC 2015c). Liberia had the lowest number since June 2014 (BBC 2015c). Health officials are generally optimistic, but numerous Ebola hotspots remain (Associated Press 2015d).

Officials in Guinea plan to reopen schools on January 19, 2015 (BBC 2015c). The schools have been closed for 5 months due to the outbreak.

The WHO published 14 articles today that discuss the origin, course, and challenges of the Ebola outbreak (World Health Organization 2015c).

January 16, 2015 (Friday)

In Sierra Leone, medical workers appear to be having success treating Ebola patients with convalescent plasma. A professor familiar with the trials says 35 of 40 Ebola patients (87.5%) treated with convalescent plasma have recovered (Samba 2015b).

Two people in The Gambia have been charged with smuggling two people from Sierra Leone into The Gambia (Kanteh 2015).

Two healthcare workers who may have been exposed to Ebola are being transported to the United Kingdom for observation. One is a female Australian nurse whose PPE was damaged while she was working in Sierra Leone. The other had contact with a person who died from Ebola (Parker and Miller 2015).

January 17, 2015 (Saturday)

For the first time since it opened, there are no Ebola patients at the ELWA-3 treatment center in Monrovia, Liberia (PRN 2015b).

Between January 1 and 5, 2015, 156 children under the age of 5 were buried in King Tom Cemetery, Sierra Leone. Most are thought to be Ebola victims (Wintercross 2015).

January 18, 2015 (Sunday)

Mali is now officially Ebola-free. It has been 42 days since the last Ebola case in the country (Stout 2015).

The crematorium in Monrovia, Liberia, is no longer in operation. Its services are no longer needed because there are fewer cases in the country and most of the recent Liberian Ebola victims are being buried. Seven barrels at the crematorium contain

the ashes and charred bones of Ebola victims. A piece of paper on each barrel records the dates the bodies inside it were incinerated. Unfortunately, the identity of the victims is unknown. Officials say they will dispose the unidentified remains in a dignified manner, possibly in the form of a memorial (Giahyue 2015a).

Many of the US-built Ebola centers in Liberia opened too late to be of much help with the outbreak. For example, the clinic in Tubmanburg has only treated 46 patients since it opened on November 18, 2014. Three of the seven centers in Monrovia will temporarily close. A few of the others are being used to store food and supplies (Sieff 2015a).

January 19, 2015 (Monday)

Schools in Guinea reopened today. Many people are excited about classes restarting, but others worry about the possibility of exposing students to Ebola. Some parents kept their children home. In Conakry, school employees took the temperature of every arriving student. Only children with normal readings were allowed to enter school buildings (Diallo 2015a).

Volunteers are going house-to-house in the town of Tombo, Sierra Leone, to spread Ebola awareness and identify hidden patients (Awareness Times 2015a).

In Newark, New Jersey, today, a female healthcare worker traveling from Sierra Leone began vomiting on United Airlines Flight 45 (Strunsky 2015). She was removed from the plane and taken to Hackensack University Medical Center. She is being tested for Ebola. Flight 45 originated in Brussels (Strunsky 2015). The removal of the woman was dramatic and stressful for the other passengers. Five responders in hazmat suits boarded the plane (Saker 2015). Everyone was asked to fill out cards with their contact information so they could be reached by health officials. At one point, a team member asked a passenger to stop photographing the incident (Saker 2015).

Aeroflot Flight 2455 was quarantined for 4 h at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport today because a female passenger was suspected of having Ebola. The flight was traveling from Paris, France, to Moscow, Russia. The traveler was removed from the plane and given a temporary visa so she could receive treatment in the city (RT 2015).

A South Korean medical worker has been discharged from the hospital in Berlin, Germany. The worker had been under observation since January 4, 2015. They were drawing blood from an Ebola patient in Sierra Leone when they suffered a needlestick injury. The worker has not developed Ebola (Korea Times 2015).

January 20, 2015 (Tuesday)

Attendance at Guinean schools was generally poor yesterday. Many students stayed home. One class that normally has 50 students had only 5 attendees. Some classes were empty (Kamara 2015e).

Three priests were beaten up in the village of Kabak, Guinea, today. The priests were spraying insecticide, but the villagers thought they were spreading Ebola (Iyengar 2015).

Accurate numbers remain elusive, but it is thought that there may be up to 10,000 Ebola orphans in West Africa (Mazibuko 2015).

The World Bank believes the economic impact of Ebola on West Africa may be lower than initially estimated. It was thought that the outbreak would cause \$25 B in losses. It now appears that the three most heavily affected countries may have "only" suffered \$1.6 B in losses (Reuters 2015e).

January 21, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 21,724 (428 new) Fatalities: 8641 (212 new) (World Health Organization 2015d)
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As Ebola case numbers decline, the halving time for cases has reached 1.4 weeks in Guinea, 2.0 weeks Liberia, and 2.7 weeks in Sierra Leone (World Health Organization 2015d).

Officials in Sierra Leone are becoming more optimistic about the effectiveness of their Ebola-fighting efforts. Krio language posters in Freetown read "Togeda we go stop ebola." In colloquial English this means "together we will stop Ebola" (Farge and Fofana 2015).

Sierra Leone plans to reopen schools in March 2015. To help protect returning students, teachers will be trained to take the students temperatures and chlorinated water will be provided for hand-washing. The head of the UK's Sierra Leone Ebola task force recommends an official risk assessment be conducted before schools are allowed to reopen (Reuters 2015f).

Jackson K.P. Naimah, a Liberian physician assistant at the ELWA-3 Ebola Management Center in Paynesville, Liberia, says treating Ebola patients is a heart-rending emotional rollercoaster. When patients survive it makes him extremely happy. When they die he gets depressed. It is difficult for Naimah to relax because his friends often avoid him out of fear of Ebola (Médecins Sans Frontières 2015a).

January 22, 2015 (Thursday)

Ciatta Bishop, the head of Liberia's National Ebola Burial Team, says that so far during the outbreak, more than 2800 bodies have been collected in Liberia (Xinhua and NAN 2015).

Kailahun District in Sierra Leone has gone 42 days without a new Ebola case (Samba 2015c). [On January 10, 2015, it was reported that the district had gone 27 days without a new Ebola case]

Sierra Leone will stop providing Ebola hazard pay for healthcare workers at the end of March 2015. Workers have been receiving up to \$118 a week in hazard pay (Siddiqui 2015).

Clinical trials of ZMapp will begin in Liberia in about 3 weeks (Pollack 2015).

The University of Nebraska's Biocontainment Unit has released a patient who had been under observation since early January 2015. The patient had suffered a high-risk Ebola exposure, but did not develop Ebola (Reuters 2015g).

About 20 soldiers from Fort Bragg have completed their quarantine period and will be reunited with their families today (WRAL 2015).

January 23, 2015 (Friday)

Liberia says there are only five active Ebola cases left in the country (Reuters 2015h). Three of the patients are in Monrovia, the other two in Bomi and Grand Cape Mount counties (Reuters 2015h). Due to the drop in cases, the mobilization orders for about 350 US reservists have been canceled (Tilghman 2015b). About 2300 US troops are currently deployed in West Africa as part of Operation *United Assistance* (Tilghman 2015b).

With Ebola cases declining, Sierra Leone's president has announced that all district quarantines will be lifted as of today. There will no longer be any travel restrictions between districts and business hours will be extended on Saturdays (AFP 2015d).

GlaxoSmithKline's Ebola vaccine will start large-scale phase III clinical trials in Liberia. Up to 30,000 people will take part in the study. One third of the participants will receive the trial vaccine. The vaccine doses are expected to arrive in Liberia today (Outbreak News Today 2015b).

January 24, 2015 (Saturday)

Infected British nurse Pauline Cafferkey has recovered from Ebola and been released from the hospital (Jenkins 2015).

Researchers are concerned that the falling number of Ebola cases will make it difficult to conduct field trials of the GlaxoSmithKline Ebola vaccine in Liberia. The researchers are considering moving some of the vaccine trials to Sierra Leone where Ebola cases are more common (Hirschler 2015).

January 25, 2015 (Sunday)

Recovered Spanish nurse María Teresa Romero Ramos has adopted a puppy named "Alma" (Couzens 2015). Ramos's previous dog "Excalibur" was put down when Ramos became infected with Ebola. Officials were worried that the dog could carry the disease.

January 26, 2015 (Monday)

The Ebola treatment unit in Foya, Liberia, has closed. Foya was one of the hardest hit areas during the outbreak, so the closure of the Foya treatment center is highly symbolic (AFP 2015e).

MSF says there are only about 50 Ebola patients in its eight facilities in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone (PRN 2015b).

Oxfam has called for a Marshall Plan-type recovery program for Ebola-affected countries in West Africa. The Marshall Plan was the highly successful economic recovery program launched after World War II to rebuild devastated European countries. Officials worry that without significant support, West African countries could suffer economic and social collapse (BBC 2015d).

Senegal has reopened its land border with Guinea (Reuters 2015i).

January 27, 2015 (Tuesday)

Officials are generally optimistic about the downward trend in Ebola cases, but are well aware that all case needs to be contained so the disease does not reemerge. Emmanuel d'Harcourt, senior health director for the International Rescue

Committee, said that a similar situation occurred in mid-May 2014. Cases appeared to be on the decline, then hidden cases suddenly emerged and the epidemic exploded (Lewis 2015).

In many parts of West Africa, the "Ebola handshake," which consists of bumping elbows, hitting arms, or knocking shoes, is the new normal (Connolly 2015).

January 28, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 22,092 (368 new) Fatalities: 8810 (169 new) (World Health Organization 2015e)
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There were 99 confirmed Ebola cases last week in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone [presumably many of the 368 new cases cited in today's situation report are suspected cases]. This is the first week since the week of June 29, 2014 that there were less than 100 new cases. Unfortunately, Mali Prefecture in Guinea has reported its first Ebola case (World Health Organization 2015e).

The capacity of the ELWA-3 Ebola treatment center in Monrovia, Liberia, has been reduced from 120 to 60 beds. The higher capacity is no longer needed. At the height of the outbreak, ELWA-3 was one of the largest and most active treatment centers. From its opening on August 17, 2014, to December 31, 2014, ELWA-3 admitted 1826 patients. Of these, 1225 tested positive for Ebola. Seven hundred twenty-seven of the confirmed Ebola cases died; 498 survived (Dosso 2015).

Preliminary test results of the GlaxoSmithKline Ebola vaccine yield a mixed picture of the vaccine's effectiveness. On the positive side, the vaccine seems well tolerated by humans; only 2 out of 59 test subjects developed short-lived fevers. Inoculated subjects also developed some immune response. On the negative side, the immune response was lower than what was seen in trials with macaques (Rampling et al. 2015).

January 29, 2015 (Thursday)

Researchers believe that the Ebola virus circulating in Guinea has mutated. This is not unexpected given that viruses evolve very rapidly. The yet-to-be-answered question, however, is whether the mutations will allow the virus to spread more quickly. Of special concern is the possibility that the mutations could allow for some infected people to remain asymptomatic. If so, a seemingly well victim could act as an Ebola carrier. Dr. Anavaj Sakuntabhai says that several asymptomatic patients have already been seen (Mazumdar 2015b).

A patient with Ebola-like symptoms has been isolated in California. They have been transferred from Mercy General Hospital in Sacramento to the University of California at Davis Medical Center. UC Davis has a specialized ward available for Ebola patients. Little information has been released about the patient, but officials think it is unlikely the person actually has the disease (Bernstein 2015).

January 30, 2015 (Friday)

Liberia is hoping to be Ebola-free by the end of February 2015 (AllAfrica 2015b). Liberian schools will reopen on February 16, 2015 (Giahyue 2015b). Initially the

government had planned to open schools on February 2, but they decided to delay the opening so students and parents could have more time to prepare (Giahyue 2015b).

January 31, 2015 (Saturday)

As Liberia prepares to reopen its schools, there are concerns about students returning to school buildings that were used as Ebola treatment centers. For example, Nathaniel V. Massaquoi Elementary School in Monrovia was used as a holding center for suspected Ebola cases. Many patients died there before they could be transferred to other facilities. The government promises to decontaminate the school before it is reopened, but parents remain wary. This problem is not unique to Liberia. Many schools in Guinea and Sierra Leone were used as treatment centers (Sieff 2015b).

A British military nurse in Sierra Leone has suffered a needlestick injury while treating an infected Ebola patient. The nurse has been transported to the Royal Free Hospital in London and will be kept under observation for 21 days (Ward 2015).

The drug company Chimerix has discontinued clinical trials of its drug brincidofovir in Liberia. Phase II trials of brincidofovir were underway, but because of the falling case numbers, Chimerix has decided to withdraw from the efficacy trials. The company has also stopped planning for future randomize drug trials (Kroll 2015).

February 1, 2015 (Sunday)

A model developed at the University of Georgia suggests that the Ebola outbreak in Liberia could be over between March and June 2015 (Banton 2015).

February 2, 2015 (Monday)

Large-scale Ebola vaccine trials have begun in Liberia. The goal is to inoculate 30,000 individuals, including healthcare workers, with two different vaccines (BBC 2015e). Presumably, some individuals will get one vaccine and some will get the other.

A second British healthcare worker has been transported to the Royal Free Hospital in London following a needlestick injury in Sierra Leone (BBC 2015f). This comes after a similar incident on January 31, 2015. Though similar, the incidents appear to be unrelated.

The US Air Force is completing work on 25 air transportable isolation modules for patients with infectious diseases. The modules should be ready by April 2015. Each module can fit up to four patients and can be carried by a C-17 or C-130 (Schogol 2015).

February 3, 2015 (Tuesday)

Ebola aid payments continue to fall far short of pledged levels. A total of \$2.89 B has been pledged, but so far only \$1.09 B has been delivered (Schlanger 2015).

February 4, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 22,495 (403 new) Fatalities: 8981 (171 new)

(World Health Organization 2015f)

Liberia plans to close four Ebola treatment units in and around Monrovia. The Island Clinic and the Unity Conference Center Ebola treatment unit have already closed, with Unity closing on February 1, 2015. Two Ebola treatment units at the Ministry of Defense will close on February 25, 2015 (Sendolo 2015a).

A new Ebola case has been detected in Margibi County, Liberia. This is troubling because the county has not has any cases for almost a month. Officials say the sick patient's wife brought the patient to Margibi County from Monrovia (Brooks C 2015b).

Schools in Sierra Leone will reopen on March 30, 2015 (Johnson 2015a).

The US Department of State will allow adult family members to return to the US embassy in Freetown, Sierra Leone (U.S. Department of State 2015). The agency ordered all non-employed dependents out of Sierra Leone on August 14, 2014.

Preliminary field results suggest the drug favipiravir can reduce Ebola mortality. Trials of the drug took place at two sites in Guinea using 69 patients. The fatality rate for patients with moderate blood levels of Ebola was significantly lower in treated versus untreated patients – 15% mortality compared to 30% mortality. For ethical reasons, this was not a traditional controlled study where some patients received the drugs and others did not. Data for the untreated group came from patients who had been treated earlier at a MSF facility in Guéckédou, Guinea (Fink 2015a).

Doctors think post-Ebola syndrome may affect about half of West African Ebola survivors. It is unclear what causes the syndrome, but it may be a type of autoimmune response that makes the immune system become hyperstimulated. Symptoms are varied, but vision is often affected. Significant eye pain and blindness can occur. Doctors point out that given the severity of Ebola, it may not be surprising that the disease causes long-term effects in patients. For example, some Lassa fever survivors suffer nerve damage and hearing loss (Farge 2015a).

After an internal review, the CDC believes that the Ebola samples that were accidentally transferred to a BSL-2 lab on December 22, 2014, were likely dead (Steenhuysen 2015). This does not change the severity of the mishap, but it suggests that the exposed technicians were not at risk of developing Ebola.

It is thought that British nurse Pauline Cafferkey became infected because she wore a visor instead of goggles while working with Ebola patients. Both types of PPE effectively protect healthcare workers while they are being worn, but there are differences in the way they are removed. These differences (not explicitly described) are thought to have led to Cafferkey's infection (BBC 2015g).

The United Kingdom has announced that a new medal will be awarded to medical workers and military personnel who helped with the West African Ebola outbreak (Watt 2015).

February 5, 2015 (Thursday)

After a consistent downward trend in the number of Ebola cases, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea all had a slight uptick in cases during the past week. There were a total of 124 new confirmed cases in the three countries last week. The week before, there had been 99 new cases (Zoroya 2015a).

UN officials think the majority of Ebola flare-ups are being caused by improper burials. Some residents continue to bury their dead secretly using dangerous traditional burial practices. Given the strong social and religious feelings people have about funeral rites, preventing such burials is very difficult (Reuters 2015j).

The US military mission to Liberia is winding down. There are currently about 1300 US troops in the country. The numbers will drop through March 2015. Once the majority of troops are gone, a small 100-person force will remain in the country to deal with additional contingencies. The cost of the US deployment has been about \$900 M (Zoroya 2015b).

February 6, 2015 (Friday)

Guinea is seeing an increase in active Ebola cases. There are currently 53 confirmed cases in the country. Officials think the new cases are being discovered because healthcare workers are starting to visit parts of the country that were previously inaccessible (Reuters 2015k).

The US State Department has awarded the Phoenix Air Group a new contract to transport Ebola cases. Phoenix Air Group has ferried US Ebola victims from West Africa to treatment centers in the United States. The new contract calls for the company to remain on standby to respond to additional Ebola cases. It also asks the company to train government workers in infectious transportation management (Sickles 2015).

February 7, 2015 (Saturday)

Ebola is especially dangerous to the very young. The mortality rate for children under 5 is \geq 80%. Additionally, 21 pregnant women are known to have survived Ebola, but their fetuses almost never survived (K 2015).

Due to the apparent effectiveness of the drug favipiravir, Guinea plans to make wider use of the drug at Ebola treatment centers (HNGN 2015).

February 8, 2015 (Sunday)

Two Ebola burial workers were attacked by a mob in Forecariah, Guinea (AFP 2015f). It is unclear why the attack occurred.

February 9, 2015 (Monday)

A violent protest erupted in Conakry, Guinea today. The incident began after an imam was arrested for holding a funeral for a person thought to have died from Ebola. Protestors set up barricades and burned tires. They then attacked police with sticks and stones. Police responded with tear gas and baton charges. About 12 people were wounded in the clashes. Protestors insist the person died from natural causes and did not have Ebola (AFP 2015g).

The Gambia has lifted all of its travel bans to Ebola-affected countries (AllAfrica 2015c).

February 10, 2015 (Tuesday)

As healthcare workers move deeper into remote sections of Guinea, they are encountering resistance from residents. Negative rumors about healthcare workers persist in the rural areas. Some think workers are spreading Ebola. Others think workers are harvesting organs at Ebola treatment centers. To avoid conflict, the Red Cross keeps a low profile in rural Guinea and sometimes drives cars without Red Cross emblems (Hussain 2015).

Sierra Leone is trying to solve the problem of "ghostworkers." A ghostworker is someone who fraudulently collects money from the government for work associated with the Ebola outbreak. Several types of ghosts exist. A ghost can be a fictitious name that is added to a list of Ebola workers. A ghost can also be a real Ebola worker who lists their name several times to receive extra pay. It is unclear how many ghostworkers there currently are in Sierra Leone. There may have been around 6000 at the end of 2014 (Farge 2015b).

February 11, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 22,894 (399 new) Fatalities: 9177 (196 new)

(World Health Organization 2015g)

President Obama has announced that he is withdrawing almost all US troops from West Africa. A token force of 100 troops will be left behind to deal with contingencies (Shear and Davis 2015). This official statement confirms previous reports about US troop withdrawal.

Today's WHO situation report shows a dramatic increase in Ebola cases in Guinea. There were 65 new confirmed cases in Guinea last week, compared to 39 the week before (World Health Organization 2015f, g). Most of the new cases were in Conakry and in Forecariah Prefecture. Caseloads in Sierra Leone and Liberia were more or less steady, with 76 and 3 new confirmed cases, respectively (World Health Organization 2015g).

February 12, 2015 (Thursday)

Prescott et al. (2015) describe the ability of Ebola to remain viable in an infected corpse. Infected cynomolgus macaques were euthanized when they were close to death. Samples from their bodies were collected over a 10-week period. Viable virus particles were detected for up to 7 days after death. Ebola viral RNA was found in blood and saliva for up to 3 weeks (Prescott et al. 2015).

The World Bank will provide 10,500 tons of corn and rice seed to West African farmers. Officials are very worried about food production in Ebola-affected areas. Many farmers have died or abandoned their fields. The seed will cost \$15 M and will be made available so farmers can prepare for the April planting season (IBNS 2015).

February 13, 2015 (Friday)

About 12,000 schools are now open in Guinea. Attendance is running at about 85% (AFP 2015h).

A crowd attacked an Ebola transit center in Faranah, Guinea, today and set fire to a MSF vehicle. The incident was sparked when a Red Cross team tried to disinfect a school (Reuters 20151). It is unclear what specifically led to the attack, but persistent rumors in the area say that healthcare workers are spreading Ebola, not fighting it.

ZMapp is being shipped to Africa for clinical trials. The drug is difficult to make, but enough has been produced for field testing to begin (Fox 2015b).

February 14, 2015 (Saturday)

Sierra Leone has imposed a mini-quarantine on the Freetown community of Aberdeen. There have been five new Ebola cases in the area recently. Some of the victims are fishermen who returned from sea with Ebola-like symptoms (Associated Press 2015e).

The National Audit Office of Sierra Leone says there have been significant problems with the dispersal of Ebola funds (Reuters 2015m; Thomas 2015). Almost one-third of the \$20 M earmarked for Ebola efforts are unaccounted for. Money was often paid without receipts or invoices. Thus, it is impossible to determine how the money was spent or if it was spent appropriately (Reuters 2015m).

UNICEF workers visited the village of Komendeh Luyama, Sierra Leone, today. The community of 1200 has been hard-hit by Ebola. Forty-two people in Komendeh Luyama have contacted Ebola, 31 of them have died. The disease arrived in the village on October 10, 2014. Initially, people denied the existence of Ebola, but then realized its dangers. Community leaders moved fast to contain the virus. Quarantine sites were established in three homes. The first house was the home of the initial victim. The second house held people who had handled the corpse of the first victim. The third house held people who had visited the first victim's house. Community leaders banned movement into and out of the village and made sure people followed good hygiene practices like hand-washing (James 2015).

The Sierra Leone Association of Journalists has launched a campaign to increase Ebola awareness. People are encouraged to wear yellow ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to fight Ebola (APA 2015d).

February 15, 2015 (Sunday)

No significant Ebola-related events were reported today. This is the first day since July 9, 2014, that no reportable events occurred. For the remainder of the text, no entry will be included for days without notable events.

February 16, 2015 (Monday)

Schools have reopened in Liberia (DiLorenzo 2015; Paye-Layleh 2015a). Most schools are functioning normally, but some remain closed because they do not have running water for hand-washing. Not everyone thinks the schools are safe and some parents kept their children home (DiLorenzo 2015).

F. Zeela Zaizay, a registered nurse and Map International team leader, says people in Liberia have started to abandon some Ebola-fighting practices. For example, some residents are moving dead people back to their home villages for burial (McKenna 2015).

The Liberian Red Cross has released a song entitled "Let Us Live Together Again." It is intended to reduce the stigma of Ebola survivors and encourage tolerance and support for survivors (RTT News 2015).

A female British Red Cross worker has been evacuated from Kono, Sierra Leone. On Saturday, February 14, 2015, she was splashed in the eye with body fluids while she was removing her PPE. A Swiss Air rescue plane transported her to the United Kingdom (Brown 2015).

February 17, 2015 (Tuesday)

Ebola training in Freetown, Sierra Leone, includes role-playing in a mock hospital with Ebola survivors playing the part of victims. The goal is to introduce healthcare workers to the environment of an Ebola treatment center. The mock patients exhibit the symptoms of Ebola victims. Environmental conditions are also simulated. For example, needles and sharps are accidentally left on the ground (De Vries 2015).

February 18, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 23,253 (359 new) Fatalities: 9380 (203 new) (World Health Organization 2015h)
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During the week ending February 15, 2015, there were 45 unsafe burials in Sierra Leone and 39 in Guinea (World Health Organization 2015h).

Residents of Port Loko District, Sierra Leone, may be hiding patients or avoiding clinics. In response, officials have launched a 2-week, door-to-door Ebola campaign in the district. Teams say people are cooperating (Johnson 2015b).

February 19, 2015 (Thursday)

Quarantined families in Sierra Leone are having a hard time obtaining food. One family has been isolated since January 9, 2015. They have received only one food package which was delivered at the start of their isolation. Currently, the family only has rice to eat and even that is running low. Other residents are aware of the problem. Consequently, some people hide in the forest rather than risk quarantine. The food delivery system for quarantined families is long and convoluted. It begins when a contact tracer provides the names of people needing food to a supervisor. The supervisor then sends the list to government nutritionists. The list is then passed to the district medical officer. Finally, NGOs are contacted to deliver food to the families (Maxmen 2015). Given the large number of links in this chain, it is not surprising that errors and omissions occur.

Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, the head of UNMEER, believes the worst of the Ebola outbreak is over (Marteh 2015).

Osterholm et al. (2015) conclude that airborne transmission of Ebola can probably occur, at least in some situations. The authors reviewed all of the current data on Ebola transmission. They find that most transmission events occur through direct contact. However, it also seems that Ebola can sometimes spread through the air via aerosols and droplets (Osterholm et al. 2015).

Ghana has lifted its ban on international conferences. The country had banned international meetings to prevent the spread of Ebola (Ghana Business News 2015).

February 20, 2015 (Friday)

The WHO has approved a rapid Ebola-detection test. The ReEBOV Antigen Rapid Test works within 15 min. It is made by Corgenix. The test is not perfect, but it can correctly identify 92% of infected Ebola victims. It can also correctly rule out infection in 85% of uninfected people. Officials have high hopes for the test. Traditional Ebola tests can take days to return results. The new test should help medical workers quickly separate Ebola patients from other patients (Boseley 2015b).

MSF has closed the Kailahun Ebola treatment center in Sierra Leone. Kailahun District has gone 66 days without a new Ebola case (Kamara 2015c). At one point, the Kailahun center was one of the most active Ebola treatment units. Its closure is highly symbolic of the recent advances made against the disease.

Liberia will reopen its land borders on Sunday, February 22, 2015. The country will also lift its nationwide 0000–0600 h curfew (Executive Mansion 2015).

February 21, 2015 (Saturday)

Eight healthcare workers from the S.D. Cooper Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia, have been placed under observation after coming into contact with an Ebola victim. A female patient had been transferred to S.D. Cooper from a different hospital. She had Ebola, but the staff at S.D. Copper did not know it. They worked with her before they were aware she was Ebola-positive. Despite this set back, the number of Ebola cases in Liberia remains very low. There are only eight confirmed Ebola cases in the country (Paye-Layleh 2015b).

Unfounded Ebola fears continue to crop up around the world. On February 20, 2015, a man died in Quebec, Canada, after returning from West Africa. News sources (and presumably officials) speculated that he might have died from Ebola. However, the man had returned from Burkina Faso – a country with no known Ebola cases (QMI 2015). It is therefore extremely unlikely that he had the disease.

February 22, 2015 (Sunday)

An Australian nurse working in Sierra Leone has been transferred to the United Kingdom for observation. The nurse suffered an unspecified, low-risk incident involving Ebola (AAP 2015).

February 23, 2015 (Monday)

Liberians are overjoyed that the Ebola curfew has been lifted. People stayed out into the early morning hours. Many say they finally feel free. Retailers are also excited. The end of the curfew gives customers more time to shop and visit restaurants and bars (AFP 2015i).

A Sierra Leone orphanage has been quarantined after a staff member developed Ebola. Augustine Baker collapsed during a meeting. Tests confirmed he has Ebola. The 33 orphans at the facility are now under observation (BBC 2015h).

February 24, 2015 (Tuesday)

The number of Ebola cases in Sierra Leone is rising. Dr. Felicity Fitzgerald says the admissions board at the Connaught Hospital Ebola Isolation Unit is now full. She also says there were three times more new cases during the past week than there were the week before. There are now 65 confirmed Ebola cases in Freetown (Fitzgerald 2015).

Liberia has placed Gaygbah Town and the surrounding villages under quarantine. Four new Ebola cases have recently occurred in the area. The new cases started on February 4, 2015, when a woman brought her infected husband to a local clinic from Monrovia. The man died and several community members were infected (Baysah 2015).

February 25, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 23,729 (476 new) Fatalities: 9604 (224 new) (World Health Organization 2015i)
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Because of the risk posed by convalescent semen, some male Ebola survivors are placing themselves into self-imposed quarantine. The WHO recommends male survivors abstain from sex for at least 90 days after recovery. To help make sure they comply with these recommendations, some men have chosen to isolate themselves from their wives and girlfriends (Shryock and Bavier 2015).

Augustine Baker, a staff member who worked with Ebola orphans in Sierra Leone, has died from Ebola (BBC 2015i). His loss is deeply felt by Sierra Leone Ebola-fighters.

In Liberia, about 20% of the people who had stopped working because of the outbreak have returned to work (AllAfrica 2015d).

February 26, 2015 (Thursday)

The 101st Airborne Division cased its colors at a ceremony in Monrovia, Liberia, today. This symbolically marks the end of Operation *United Assistance*. It officially ends US troop deployments to West Africa (AFP 2015j; Hoskins 2015). Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf thanked the United States for its help with the crisis and expressed the profound gratitude of the Liberian people (Biddle 2015).

Paolo Conteh, Sierra Leone's Ebola Czar, is dismayed at the rising number of Ebola cases in Sierra Leone. There have been double digit increases in new cases during 3 days of the past week. He believes the increases are due to lax enforcement of anti-Ebola protocols. He is especially concerned about unsafe burials that are occurring in the western part of the country (Sierra Leone Times 2015).

MSF says there has been a general drop in fatality rates at its West African Ebola clinics. The current mortality rate is about 52%. Last March it was 62%. It is unclear what is causing the drop. Patients could be arriving at clinics with lower viral loads than before. If so, this could be because patients are seeking treatment sooner (although data suggests this is not the case), or because people are taking more safety precautions and having less exposure to Ebola. It is also possible that the active Ebola strain may have mutated to become less lethal (McNeil 2015).

A total of 2592 blood serum samples are being shipped from Sierra Leone to South Africa for future Ebola research. South Africa has the only BSL-4 laboratory in Africa (Xinhua News Agency 2015b).

The FDA has approved Corgenix Medical Corp's ReEBOV Antigen Rapid Test for emergency use. The test takes 15 min to complete and is conducted by placing a drop of blood onto a paper test strip (Reuters 2015n). The WHO approved the use of the test on February 20, 2015.

February 27, 2015 (Friday)

A fishing village just outside Makeni, Sierra Leone, has been quarantined after a sudden spike in Ebola cases. The flare-up started when a sick man fled quarantine in Freetown and came to the village. A local healer treated him using traditional methods. The sick man died about a day after he arrived. Numerous people have since been infected. The deceased man's father has died, as has the traditional healer who performed the man's burial. Bill Boyes, spokesman for the International Medical Corps in Makeni, says before the spike, things had been quiet at the Makeni treatment center. Then on Sunday, February 22, 2015, ambulances started to arrive. There are now 31 confirmed Ebola patients at the facility (O'Carroll 2015c).

The WHO says an independent advisory body will decide in August 2015 whether to recommend mass Ebola vaccination in West Africa. The decision will be based on the results of the ongoing field trials of vaccine candidates (Nebehay 2015).

February 28, 2015 (Saturday)

Due to the recent uptick in Sierra Leone Ebola cases, President Ernest Bai Koroma has reinstated some Ebola restrictions. The rules include limiting the number of passengers taxis can carry, banning nighttime boat launches, and reinforcing health checkpoints. In terms of the taxi regulations, two people may ride in a taxi car; four people may ride in a taxi van (The Star 2015).

The Vice President of Sierra Leone, Samuel Sam-Sumana, has quarantined himself after one of his bodyguards died from Ebola (The Star 2015).

A clinical trial of ZMapp has begun in Liberia (Reuters 2015o).

March 2, 2015 (Monday)

Liberia has gone 7 days without a new confirmed Ebola case (AllAfrica 2015e; BBC 2015j). At present, there are two confirmed cases in the country and 116 people under surveillance (AllAfrica 2015e). Officials stress the need for caution, but these numbers suggest that Liberia is well on its way to becoming Ebola-free.

Testing errors in Guinea led to several Ebola-positive patients being accidentally released from treatment centers. Dr. Sakoba Keita, Guinea's anti-Ebola coordinator, confirms that in January and February 2015 at least 23 botched blood tests led to four Ebola-positive patients being released. Two of these patients have died. The errors took place in Conakry and Coyah. In some cases, diagnostic blood samples were accidentally placed in test tubes with the blood-thinning agent heparin (Farge 2015c).

A committee of Sierra Leone's Parliament has ordered the arrest of the country's National Ebola Response Center coordinator, Steven Ngaojia. Ngaojia apparently took part in the misappropriation of Ebola funds (Samba 2015d).

March 4, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 23,969 (240 new) Fatalities: 9807 (203 new) (World Health Organization 2015j)

Liberia will discharge its last Ebola patient tomorrow. The patient is being treated at the Chinese Ebola Treatment Unit in Paynesville. Liberia's Assistant Health Minister, Tolbert Nyenswah, says a ceremony will be held to mark the occasion (APA 2015e).

The recent rise in Ebola cases in Sierra Leone has some residents questioning the wisdom of reopening schools. Schools are scheduled to reopen on March 30, 2015, but this may be delayed until case levels fall (Naija247 2015).

A new estimate by Street Child of Sierra Leone says there may be 12,000 Ebola orphans in Sierra Leone (O'Carroll 2015d).

Facing Ebola as a healthcare worker is extremely difficult. Dr. Monica Rull, a volunteer medical coordinator, says medical organizations like MSF understand that some workers will not be able to deal with the pressure of working with such a dangerous disease. Protocols are in place to allow these workers to leave graciously (Ravelo 2015).

March 5, 2015 (Thursday)

Liberia has released its last Ebola patient, 58-year-old English teacher Beatrice Yardolo (Associated Press 2015f, Williams 2015c). Yardolo was admitted to the Chinese-run Ebola Center in Paynesville on February 18, 2015 (Associated Press 2015f). To make sure she has really recovered from the disease, she was given three separate Ebola tests. All were negative. There are presently 102 contacts under observation in Liberia. Once the country has gone 42 days without a new case, Liberia will be considered Ebola-free (Williams 2015c).

In contrast to Liberia's success, Sierra Leone is suffering a setback in its fight against Ebola. Dr. James Meiring, working with the International Medical Corps in Sierra Leone, says there has recently been an increase in Ebola cases in the country. In his ward, there are currently 21 confirmed Ebola patients and 27 high-risk contacts under observation (Lancaster Guardian 2015).

With case levels dropping, the Canadian Red Cross has ended its campaign to recruit Canadian healthcare workers to fight Ebola in West Africa (Lunn 2015).

March 6, 2015 (Friday)

Ebola survivors in Sierra Leone have requested free follow-up medical care for lingering Ebola-related medical problems, including post-Ebola syndrome (Kamara 2015b).

March 7, 2015 (Saturday)

The crematorium used to incinerate Liberian Ebola victims has been dismantled. Over the course of the outbreak, an estimated 3000 people were cremated in Liberia. Nineteen barrels containing the ashes of Ebola victims will be buried on a 25 acre plot bought by the government [the Disco Hill cemetery]. Local religious leaders held a ceremony at the crematorium's site today to mark the end of its use (Paye-Layleh 2015c).

Officials in West Africa, especially in Liberia, are reminding people to stay vigilant against Ebola. Even a single case can reignite the epidemic. Officials stress that Ebola-fighting efforts must continue until no active cases remain in West Africa (Frankel 2015).

The WHO has begun large-scale testing of Merck's VSV-EBOV Ebola vaccine in Guinea (Cheng 2015b).

March 9, 2015 (Monday)

Drums holding the ashes of Ebola victims have begun to be transferred from Liberia's crematorium to the cemetery on Disco Hill. Relatives of the deceased dressed in mourning attire watched the proceedings (Williams 2015d).

More precise casualty figures have been released for the Liberian Ebola outbreak. Officials say 6097 total deaths (from Ebola and non-Ebola causes) were recorded in the country between March 2014 and February 2015. Of those, 2711 were cremated and 3386 were interred by burial teams. Oral swabs for Ebola tests were collected from 70.6% of the bodies (Gortor 2015a).

March 10, 2015 (Tuesday)

About 60 US troops have completed their 3-week Ebola quarantine at Fort Bragg, North Carolina (WNCN 2015).

March 11, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 24,282 (313 new) Fatalities: 9976 (169 new) (World Health Organization 2015k)

A female British military healthcare worker [Anna Cross] has contracted Ebola while working in Sierra Leone. She is currently being treated in the Kerry Town Ebola Treatment Unit (BBC 2015k).

Today is Decoration Day in Liberia. It is a holiday similar to Memorial Day in the United States and is a time when people visit the graves of loved ones. Today's Decoration Day is a rather somber occasion for families whose loved ones were cremated. There is no grave for them to visit. In a country where burial is the cultural norm, the lack of a grave can cause significant psychological stress for surviving family members (MacDougall 2015; Muchler and Collins 2015).

March 12, 2015 (Thursday)

The official death toll from the Ebola outbreak has passed 10,000. There have been 10,004 confirmed or suspected deaths in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea (Al Jazeera 2015a).

The infected UK healthcare worker [Anna Cross] has been evacuated to Britain. Two close contacts have also been evacuated to the United Kingdom and will be monitored. All three patients are being treated at the Royal Free Hospital in London. Two other workers who had some contact with the infected patient are being monitored in Sierra Leone (Whitman 2015).

Liberia says Ebola victims will not be officially mourned until the country is declared Ebola-free. Officials think it would be premature to hold a ceremony before the outbreak is officially over (Butty 2015a).

Dr. Nancy Snyderman has quit her position at NBC News (Farberov 2015). She had been severely criticized for breaking quarantine in October 2014.

March 13, 2015 (Friday)

A male US healthcare worker has contracted Ebola in Sierra Leone (Sifferlin 2015a; Sweeney 2015). The patient is a clinician who was working for the US charity Partners in Health (Sweeney 2015). He is currently in serious condition and has been transferred to the NIH site in Bethesda, Maryland, for treatment (Sifferlin 2015a).

The remaining two healthcare workers who had contact with the most recent British patient have been transported from Sierra Leone to the United Kingdom. They were taken to the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle (BBC 20151).

March 14, 2015 (Saturday)

Ten Americans who may have had contact with the latest US Ebola patient are being flown from Sierra Leone to the United States for observation. All of the new patients work for Partners in Health. It is unclear where all of the people will be taken, but it is reported that at least one will go to Emory University Hospital and four will go to the Nebraska Medical Center (Reuters 2015p).

March 15, 2015 (Sunday)

Eight of the 11 Americans exposed to Ebola in Sierra Leone (including the clinician with Ebola) have returned the United States. The three others will return Monday (Cohen 2015).

March 16, 2015 (Monday)

The American Ebola patient being treated at the NIH is now in critical condition. On Sunday night, one of the patients being monitored in Nebraska started exhibiting Ebola-like symptoms. They were isolated, but the symptoms resolved today and the patient has tested negative for Ebola (Associated Press 2015g).

Data from Kailahun District in Sierra Leone provide an empirical assessment of Ebola's impact. The first Ebola case was recorded in the district on May 25, 2014. The district was declared Ebola-free on January 22, 2015. During that time [242 days], more than 300 people died from Ebola. There are now 182 Ebola widows in the district and 620 children who lost parents or guardians to the disease. Of the survivors, 186 exhibit symptoms of post-Ebola syndrome (Kamara 2015d).

March 17, 2015 (Tuesday)

Guinea is suffering a significant setback in its fight against Ebola. Recently, 21 new Ebola cases were found in a single day. Three Guinean doctors have also been infected. Spokeswoman for UNMEER, Fatoumata Lejeune-Kaba, says it appears that people are not following anti-Ebola protocols (Samb and Farge 2015).

A total of 15 American healthcare workers have returned to the United States after being exposed to the most recent American Ebola patient. All of the returnees work for Partners in Health. It is unclear how so many people became exposed from a single patient (Fox 2015c).

March 18, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 24,701 (419 new) Fatalities: 10,194 (218 new) (World Health Organization 20151)

During the week ending March 15, 2015, there were 95 new confirmed Ebola cases in Guinea and 55 in Sierra Leone. There were no new cases in Liberia, continuing Liberia's move toward becoming Ebola-free (World Health Organization 20151).

Sierra Leone Ebola Czar Major Paolo Conteh says the King Tom Cemetery is now full. Future Ebola burials will need to take place at the Waterloo cemetery (Awoko 2015c).

Results from an opinion poll in Britain suggest that healthcare workers returning from West Africa face significant stigma at home. Only 36% of respondents say they would be willing to speak to a newly returned worker face-to-face. However, 78% say they admire the healthcare workers for their service (British Red Cross 2015a).

March 19, 2015 (Thursday)

Sierra Leone will implement another nationwide lockdown to try to stop the Ebola outbreak (BBC 2015m). The lockdown will last for 3 days and will be in effect from 0600 h March 27 to 1800 h March 29, 2015. It will be similar to the nationwide lockdown held in September 2014 (Williams 2015a). It is hoped that the new lockdown will allow officials to identify the remaining Ebola cases in the country and slow or stop the outbreak (BBC 2015m).

March 20, 2015 (Friday)

A new Ebola case has been confirmed in Liberia (Reuters 2015q). The new patient is a woman [Ruth Tugbah] who was diagnosed at the MSF center in Redemption Hospital (The Samaya 2015). The patient came from the Caldwell community near Monrovia (Rueters 2015q). This is a significant setback for Liberia. The country has been moving toward being declared Ebola-free. Liberia's last confirmed case was released from treatment on March 5, 2015.

The families of Liberian healthcare workers who died fighting Ebola are receiving \$5000 benefit checks. So far, 11 families have received the benefits (Associated Press 2015h).

March 21, 2015 (Saturday)

Liberian officials are investigating the country's new Ebola case. It is unclear how the woman became infected. She has no clear links with past patients and has not traveled recently (Associated Press 2015i).

Forty-two Ghanaian healthcare workers who worked with Ebola patients in Sierra Leone have been placed in 21-day quarantine in the Ivory Coast (Starr FM Online 2015). They will not return to Ghana until they finish their quarantine.

March 23, 2015 (Monday)

Officials say the latest Liberian Ebola patient is doing well. It is still unclear how she was infected. The woman [Ruth Tugbah] is apparently a food seller. Speculation on the street is that she caught the disease from handling infected money (Spy Ghana 2015).

Sixty-three troops from the US 36th Engineer Brigade finished their quarantine period and were reunited with their families at the Starker Physical Fitness Center at Fort Hood, Texas, today (Thayer 2015).

A man has been jailed in Britain for claiming to have Ebola. The man entered Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital, coughed on a receptionist, said he had Ebola, and claimed his wife had died from the disease. He was sentenced to 14 months in prison. The man has a history of making false statements to officials and businesses (Lister 2015).

March 24, 2015 (Tuesday)

More information has become available about the most recent Liberian Ebola patient. She is Ruth Tugbah, a 44-year-old street vendor. She lives in a house with 52 other people and recently sold food to a school with 1900 students (Fink 2015b). Given these demographic parameters, officials are very worried that new Ebola cases will appear. Indeed, the woman's 18-year-old daughter, Beneta Kun, developed a fever and weakness today and has been admitted to an Ebola treatment center (Fink 2015b). It is not clear if Beneta has Ebola. About 80 people who had contact with Tugbah are under surveillance (Sendolo 2015b). Tugbah's boyfriend seems to be an Ebola survivor. Health officials are testing his semen to see if he may have inadvertently passed the disease to Tugbah through sex (Paye-Layleh 2015d). [By May 2015 investigators had determined that Tugbah had most likely been infected through sexual contact with an Ebola survivor (Christie et al. 2015). This was exceptionally troubling because the survivor had developed Ebola 199 days before having sex with Tugbah. The case added considerable evidence to the idea that Ebola could remain infective in semen long after a survivor had recovered from the disease (Christie et al. 2015)]

Troops and medics from the 14th Combat Support Hospital at Fort Benning, Georgia, are preparing to deploy to Liberia (WLTZ 2015).

March 25, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 24,907 (206 new) Fatalities: 10,326 (132 new)

(World Health Organization 2015m)

MSF has shut the ELWA-3 Ebola treatment center in Monrovia, Liberia. At its peak, ELWA-3 had 250 beds and was one of the largest treatment centers in West Africa. It was also one of the most active. ELWA-3 opened in mid-August 2014. It admitted a total of 1917 patients. Of these, 1234 were confirmed Ebola cases. Eight hundred one patients died at the facility (AllAfrica 2015f).

Phase III trials of the Merck and NewLink Genetics Ebola vaccine have started in Guinea. The trial will vaccinate 10,000 participants using a ring vaccination strategy. In ring vaccination, a "ring" of contacts is vaccinated around an infected person. It is hoped results from the trials will be available by July 2015 (Sifferlin 2015b) [at July 31, 2015, WHO news release stated the trial started on March 23, 2015 (World Health Organization 2015n)].

March 26, 2015 (Thursday)

Residents in Sierra Leone are preparing for the country's 3-day lockdown. Ebola Czar Paolo Conteh has reminded the country's healthcare workers that Ebola hazard pay will end on March 31, 2015 (Awoko 2015d).

The American Ebola patient being treated at the NIH has improved. The patient is now in serious condition (Associated Press 2015j).

March 27, 2015 (Friday)

Sierra Leone's 3-day, nationwide lockdown has started (AFP and Reuters 2015a). During the lockdown, all residents must stay indoors and remain off of the streets. There is a 2-h exemption this evening for Muslims going to prayer and a 5-h exemption on Sunday, March 29, 2015, for Christians going to church (BBC 2015n). Early reports indicate that residents are largely complying with the stay-at-home order (AFP and Reuters 2015a). During the lockdown, 25,650 personnel in three-man teams will visit households to discuss Ebola and locate unidentified victims (Xinhua 2015a). Each team will include a healthcare worker, a social mobilizer, and a local resident (Xinhua 2015a).

Guinea has deployed security forces to its border with Sierra Leone. The move is aimed at stopping people from entering Guinea. Civilians are fleeing Sierra Leone to avoid the Ebola lockdown (Roy-Macaulay and Diallo 2015).

Liberian Ebola victim Ruth Tugbah has died (Toweh 2015). Unconfirmed reports suggest that there are two additional Ebola cases in the country, Tugbah's 18-year-old daughter and a young man from New Kru Town (Berdjis 2015).

Corporal Anna Cross has been released from the Royal Free Hospital in Britain (BBC 2015o). She is the UK military healthcare worker who was infected in Sierra Leone and evacuated to the United Kingdom on March 12, 2015. She is now Ebolafree. Corporal Cross was the first Ebola patient treated with the experimental Ebola drug MIL 77. It is unclear what role, if any, the drug played in her survival. Corporal Cross lost 22 lb while she was sick (BBC 2015o). Corporal Cross was diagnosed in Sierra Leone by a military doctor and initially isolated in the Ebola treatment center where she worked. She says it was ironic to be treating patients in the center 1 day, only to be sitting with them as a patient the next (Sky News 2015a).

Kenya Airways is expected to resume flights to Liberia on Monday, March 30, 2015 (AllAfrica 2015g).

March 28, 2015 (Saturday)

Unrest has developed in parts of Sierra Leone due to the 3-day lockdown. The government had warned citizens that they needed to stockpile supplies ahead of the lockdown, but some poor residents have already run out of food. Food distribution points have been established, but delivery is not always smooth. Soldiers at one distribution site used tear gas to break up an unruly crowd (Olu-Mammah and Fofana 2015).

March 29, 2015 (Sunday)

Guinean President Alpha Condé has declared a 45-day health emergency for five prefectures in the west of the country. The affected areas include Forecariah, Coyah, Dubreka, Boffa, and Kindia Prefectures. A major focus of the emergency will be to ensure that the dead are safely buried. All burials will be monitored by Red Cross workers or security forces, and all bodies will be tested for Ebola. Additionally, only close family members will be allowed to attend funeral services (Diallo 2015b).

March 30, 2015 (Monday)

The 3-day, nationwide lockdown in Sierra Leone has ended. The effort is believed to have been effective. At least 40 bodies were discovered and 172 sick people were transported to hospitals. As the shops reopen, there have been some runs on supplies. For example, one bakery in Freetown ran out of bread within 3 h of opening (MENAFN and AFP 2015a).

Guinea has closed its border with Sierra Leone. The closure was unexpected and caught many people off guard (Diallo 2015c).

Due to the risk posed by convalescent semen, the Liberian government is requesting all Ebola survivors to abstain from sex or use condoms. It is unclear how long people should do this, but the government says people should use these practices longer than the 3 months recommended by the WHO (South China Morning Post 2015).

Fourth grader Grace Winnie explains how Liberian students wash their hands. She says students at her school rub their palms together ten times, wash between the fingers and thumb five times, and then scrub around their nails (Irwin 2015).

The latest US Ebola patient continues to improve. The patient is now in fair condition (MENAFN and AFP 2015b).

April 1, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 25,213 (306 new) Fatalities: 10,460 (134 new) (World Health Organization 2015o)

Ten of the suspected cases identified during Sierra Leone's 3-day lockdown have tested positive for Ebola (CBS News 2015). As case numbers fall, Sierra Leone will begin to reduce the number of Ebola healthcare workers in the country (Fofana 2015a). The last Cuban healthcare workers left Sierra Leone today (AFP 2015k). Schools in Sierra Leone are scheduled to reopen on April 14, 2015 (Fofana 2015a).

The five US healthcare workers who were being monitored for Ebola in Nebraska have been released. None developed the disease (Reuters 2015r).

Emory University Hospital continues to collect and store convalescent blood plasma (Emory Medicine 2015).

Since March 2014, Ghana has tested 140 people for Ebola (Ghanaian Times 2015). All have been negative.

April 3, 2015 (Friday)

Levine et al. (2015) have developed a score-based system for clinically determining whether a suspect patient has Ebola. Points are assigned for each symptom exhibited by a patient. The higher the score, the more likely it is the patient has Ebola. The six factors most closely associated with having Ebola are having had contact with a sick person, diarrhea, anorexia, muscle pain, difficulty swallowing, and lack of abdominal pain. Data came from an assessment of 382 patients treated at the Bong Ebola Treatment Unit in Liberia (Levine et al. 2015).

April 4, 2015 (Saturday)

A 9-month-old boy has died from Ebola in Kailahun District, Sierra Leone. This is the first Ebola case in Kailahun in almost 4 months (Fofana 2015b; O'Carroll 2015e).

April 7, 2015 (Tuesday)

Officials say the reports of a 9-month-old boy dying from Ebola in Kailahun District, Sierra Leone, were wrong. The child died from other causes and did not have Ebola (Reuters 2015s).

In Freetown, Sierra Leone, 13 people were arrested for conducting an unsafe burial. A tip led police to a group of people with a coffin containing the body of a 50-year-old man. The group did not have a burial certificate. The body was given to an official burial team for proper internment (Xinhua 2015b).

Residents of Giah Town, Liberia, blocked the road leading to the Disco Hill Ebola cemetery. The residents say the government still owes them \$25,000 for the land. The land was purchased in December 2014, but so far, the government has only paid half of the agreed-upon price (Weedee-Conway 2015).

The most recent US Ebola patient continues to improve. The patient is now in good condition (Fox 2015d).

The World Federation of Science Journalist has developed an online Ebola course. The class is designed to help journalists better report about the disease (Sci Dev Net 2015).

April 8, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 25,550 (337 new) Fatalities: 10,587 (127 new) (World Health Organization 2015p)

There were 30 new confirmed Ebola cases in West Africa during the past week. This is the lowest weekly total since the third week of May 2014 (World Health Organization 2015p).

MSF Head of Mission Jose Hulsenbek says the agency has treated a total of 4962 Ebola patients in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Of these, 2329 have survived. Over the same period, 28 MSF staff members contracted Ebola, 14 of them died (Milton 2015).

April 9, 2015 (Thursday)

Half of all new Ebola cases are currently coming from two districts on the Sierra Leone-Guinea border (News24 2015a)

The most recent US Ebola patient has recovered and been released from the NIH facility in Maryland (Sifferlin 2015c). The patient began treatment at the site on March 13, 2015.

April 10, 2015 (Friday)

As case numbers fall, the WHO believes the risk of Ebola spreading out of West Africa is diminishing (Mundasad 2015).

April 11, 2015 (Saturday)

Officials say only 28 confirmed Ebola patients were treated in the 11 US-built Ebola treatment centers in Liberia. While this appears to be a very small number, Jeremy Konyndyk of the US Agency for International Development thinks the US approach was the correct one. At the time US aid was committed, models were predicting very high levels of Ebola infection in West Africa. It was important for facilities to be in place if large numbers of victims needed treatment. So far, the US response to the West African Ebola outbreak has cost \$1.4 B (Onishi 2015).

April 14, 2015 (Tuesday)

Schools in Sierra Leone have reopened (Butty 2015b; Jabati 2015). All students have their temperatures taken before they are allowed to enter school buildings. To help with this, 65,000 thermometers were distributed to the country's 9000 schools. Cleaning supplies were also distributed (Butty 2015b).

Since October 2014, New Jersey has screened 1408 passengers arriving from West Africa for Ebola. Of these, 642 were monitored for 21-day quarantine periods. Twenty-one were sent to hospitals for additional screening. None of the quarantined individuals developed Ebola. By mid-March 2015, the state had spent \$2.6 M on its Ebola response (O'Brien 2015).

April 15, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 25,826 (276 new) Fatalities: 10,704 (117 new)

(World Health Organization 2015q)

Traces of Ebola have been found in the semen of an Ebola survivor 175 days (i.e., 6 months) after his blood tested negative for the disease. The WHO now requests that survivors practice safe sex until it can be determined how long convalescent semen remains infectious (AFP 20151).

April 16, 2015 (Thursday)

The quarantine of the Kroo Bay community in Sierra Leone has been lifted. An Ebola case was detected in the slum 21 days earlier. Officials quarantined the area to prevent the spread of the disease. No one else in the community became infected (Turay 2015).

April 17, 2015 (Friday)

Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea have requested an \$8 B Marshall Plan to help rebuild the region's economy and assist with Ebola prevention (AFP 2015m).

April 18, 2015 (Saturday)

Protesting Liberian healthcare workers blocked the entrance to the ELWA-3 Ebola treatment center. The workers say the government has not paid their Ebola hazard pay (Sky News 2015b).

April 19, 2015 (Sunday)

Zimbabwe has banned the repatriation of bodies from West Africa. The country is concerned that deceased Zimbabwe citizens could have died from Ebola or been in close proximity to the bodies Ebola victims (AllAfrica 2015h).

April 20, 2015 (Monday)

The *New York Times* has won two Pulitzer prizes for its coverage of the West African Ebola outbreak. The first prize went to the *New York Times* staff for excellence in international reporting. The second prize went to freelance photojournalist Daniel Berehulak for feature photography (Wulfhorst 2015).

April 21, 2015 (Tuesday)

The UK's Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship *Argus* has been awarded an Admiralty Board Letter of Commendation for its work in West Africa. This is an exceptionally rare award. The last time it was issued was in 1939 at the beginning of World War II (Mitchell 2015).

Guinea has reopened its border with Liberia (Gortor 2015b).

April 22, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 26,079 (253 new) Fatalities: 10,823 (119 new)

(World Health Organization 2015r)

Eleven people have been given life sentences for the murder of the Ebola team in Womey, Guinea, in September 2014 (Reuters 2015t).

April 23, 2015 (Thursday)

US regulators have issued a global recall for a 10-min Ebola test produced by LuSys Laboratories, Inc. Officials say the test has not been cleared for sale and that it has not been demonstrated to be accurate (AFP 2015n).

Five US troops contracted malaria while they were deployed in West Africa (Kime 2015).

April 25, 2015 (Saturday)

An unexpected consequence of the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone has been an increase in the risk of rabies. During the epidemic, many dog owners worried that their dogs could carry Ebola. So they freed them. This has caused the dog population in the country to increase and has led to an increase in the incidence of rabies (VOA News 2015a).

April 28, 2015 (Tuesday)

MSF has turned over control of the ELWA-3 Ebola treatment center to the Liberian Ministry of Health (AllAfrica 2015i). The center currently has a 30-bed capacity (AllAfrica 2015i). Assuming no new cases develop, Liberia will be declared Ebolafree on May 9, 2015 (Heritage Liberia 2015).

The WHO will try to identify and isolate all remaining West African Ebola cases by the end of May 2015 (Cheng 2015c).

April 29, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 26,312 (233 new) Fatalities: 10,899 (76 new) (World Health Organization 2015s)

Peter Jan Graaff has been appointed the Special Representative for UNMEER. He visited Sierra Leone today (United Nations 2015).

April 30, 2015 (Thursday)

The United States has closed one of its Ebola treatment centers in Liberia. With its closing, only six of the US-built facilities remain open (VOA News 2015b).

Post-Ebola Syndrome appears to be very common among Ebola survivors. In Monrovia, Liberia, almost 40% of 1000 survivors have developed eye disorders. Uveitis – an inflammation of the eye that causes blurred vision – is the most commonly reported problem. Without treatment, uveitis can lead to blindness. Officials worry that many survivors will not receive the care they need before irreversible eye damage has occurred. American survivor Ian Crozier also has severe eye problems (McKay 2015).

May 4, 2015 (Monday)

UNMEER says its goal is to end Ebola before the start of the rainy season, approximately at the beginning of June (GNA 2015).

In Sierra Leone, 600 staff members of the Police Training School Ebola Treatment Centre at Hastings were presented with Certificates of Merit and Appreciation for their work during the outbreak. The holding and treatment center admitted 575 patients while it was open between December 18, 2014 and April 15, 2015 (AllAfrica 2015j).

Given the decreasing number of Ebola cases in Liberia, the CDC has altered its recommendations for US citizens traveling to the country. The agency no longer recommends avoiding nonessential travel to Liberia. The CDC does recommend that travelers use enhanced precautions while they are in Liberia (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2015a).

May 6, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 26,628 (316 new) Fatalities: 11,020 (121 new)

(World Health Organization 2015t)

There were 18 new confirmed Ebola cases during the week ending May 3, 2015. Nine were in Guinea; nine were in Sierra Leone (World Health Organization 2015t).

Of 1100 Liberians households surveyed in December 2014, 93% say they first learned about Ebola from the radio and 98% changed one personal behavior in response to the outbreak (such as increasing hand-washing). However, 33% thought Ebola could be spread by mosquitoes and 26% thought it could be prevented by bathing in hot water or salt water (Waylaun 2015).

May 7, 2015 (Thursday)

Varkey et al. (2015) describe the effect Ebola has had on Dr. Ian Crozier's eyes and vision. About 2 months after Dr. Crozier was released from Emory University Hospital, he developed severe eye problems, mainly with his left eye (Grady 2015; Varkey et al. 2015). He experienced intense pain, decreased visual acuity, and increased eye pressure. When tested, Ebola virus was found in the aqueous humor of his eyes, but not on the surface of his eyes or in his tears (Varkey et al. 2015). His vision is normally 20/15. Five days after the onset of symptoms, the acuity of the left eye had dropped to 20/60. It eventually dropped to 20/400. After treatment, his visual acuity returned to 20/15 (Varkey et al. 2015). Another striking feature of Dr. Crozier's eye pathology is that the color of his left eye has changed from blue to green. It is unclear if this is a permanent change (Grady 2015). Dr. Crozier has also been suffering joint and muscle pain, fatigue, and hearing loss (Grady 2015).

May 8, 2015 (Friday)

Many of Guinea's traditional healers have stopped treating patients due to the Ebola outbreak. This has imposed significant economic hardship on the healers. If they do not practice, they do not earn an income. Consequently, some have turned to begging (Diallo 2015).

May 9, 2015 (Saturday)

Liberia is now officially Ebola-free (World Health Organization 2015u). It has been 42 days – two incubation periods – since the last known Ebola case in the country. Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says Liberians should celebrate, but they should also remain mindful and vigilant (Fink 2015c). The White House has congratulated Liberia for becoming Ebola-free (Levine 2015).

May 11, 2015 (Monday)

Liberians are celebrating the end of the Ebola outbreak. The government has declared today a public holiday and people are celebrating in the streets. Many are carrying or wearing signs saying Liberia is Ebola-free (Associated Press et al. 2015).

In Sierra Leone, Red Cross burial volunteer Abdul Karim Conte has been burying five to ten bodies a day. He sometimes dreams about the victims and worries their spirits are angry with him (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies 2015).

Canada will resume processing the visa applications of Liberian residents. Canada stopped processing Liberian applications at the end of October 2014 (Canadian Press 2015).

May 12, 2015 (Tuesday)

A male nurse [Stefano Marongiu] has tested positive for Ebola in Sardinia, Italy (AGI 2015; Sky News 2015c). The nurse had been working for an Italian NGO in Sierra Leone. He developed symptoms Sunday, May 10, 2015. He has been isolated in the Hospital of Sassari and will be transferred to Rome via a specially equipped plane for treatment in Lazzaro Spallanzani Hospital (AGI 2015).

The end of the Liberian Ebola outbreak is having some unintended consequences. Because of the outbreak, many Liberians are now afraid to visit medical clinics (Fox 2015e). As a result, people are not being treated for common illnesses like malaria. Officials worry that this will lead to significant morbidity and mortality in the country (Fox 2015e). It is also believed that too few data were collected from vaccine trials to assess the effectiveness of the experimental Ebola vaccines being tested in Liberia (Reuters 2015u).

China has closed its Ebola treatment unit in Liberia and has turned the facility over to the Liberian Government (AllAfrica 2015k)

West African radio stations and disk jockeys are being recognized for their help in fighting Ebola. Radio broadcasts provided residents with critical information about the disease (Conteh 2015).

May 13, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 26,759 (131 new) Fatalities: 11,080 (60 new) (World Health Organization 2015v)

The WHO has released more information about the new Italian Ebola patient. The patient [Stefano Marongiu] had been working in Sierra Leone and flew from Freetown to Rome via Casablanca, Morocco, on May 7, 2015. He began to develop symptoms on May 10, 2015 and was isolated. He has been transferred to a treatment facility in Rome. Those who had contact with the patient are under surveillance (World Health Organization 2015w).

There were nine new confirmed Ebola cases during the week ending May 10, 2015. This is the lowest weekly number of Ebola cases this year (World Health Organization 2015v).

Kenya has lifted its travel ban on Liberia. However, Kenya will continue to screen passengers coming from Liberia until the entire outbreak has ended (Okafor 2015).

May 15, 2015 (Friday)

Guinea may be seeing an uptick in Ebola cases. Five new cases were identified in the country in past day alone. It is thought that unsafe burials are contributing to the increase in cases (Reuters 2015v).

May 16, 2015 (Saturday)

Thirteen people who had contact with the Italian Ebola victim are now quarantined in Italy (IANS 2015b).

May 19, 2015 (Tuesday)

There has been a spike in Ebola cases in Sierra Leone and Guinea (Reuters 2015w). A total of 36 new cases were identified in the past week. This is almost four times more than the previous week. Many of the 27 new Guinean cases occurred in Forecariah Prefecture (Nossiter 2015; Reuters 2015w).

May 20, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 26,969 (210 new) Fatalities: 11,135 (55 new)

(World Health Organization 2015x)

There has been a substantial increase in the number of Ebola cases in West Africa. During the week ending May 17, 2015, 27 new cases were reported in Guinea, compared to 7 the previous week. Most of the new cases are in Dubreka and Forecariah Prefectures. Many of the cases in Dubreka are linked to the funeral of a suspected Ebola victim who was buried in mid-April 2015. However, nine of the Guinean cases have no known origin. This means some chains of transmission remain undetected. In response to the increase in cases, the WHO has deployed a response team to the border of Guinea and Guinea-Bissau (World Health Organization 2015x).

Sierra Leone officials are reminding people to remain vigilant and continue to follow all Ebola-fighting regulations. Ebola Czar Paolo Conteh told a cautionary tale about a man who recently fled quarantine in Freetown. The infected man was located after a week and was returned to isolation. However, because of his escape, 52 additional people are now under quarantine. At present, a total of 578 people are under quarantine in Sierra Leone (Johnson and Larson 2015).

May 21, 2015 (Thursday)

Liberia plans to erect a national memorial for Ebola victims (VOA News 2015c).

May 22, 2015 (Friday)

Some families in Guinea are transporting the bodies of Ebola victims in public taxis. Police Captain Claude Onivogui says families are dressing up the bodies of Ebola victims and positioning them upright between other passengers so they look like they are alive. It is believed that this is being done so the dead can be brought to their home villages for traditional burial (Associated Press 2015k).

Now that Liberia is Ebola-free, food sellers are requesting that the country lift its ban on bushmeat (AllAfrica 2015l).

A threatening package was sent to former British MP George Galloway's West Yorkshire office. Inside the package were a handkerchief and a note. The note said the handkerchief was infected with Ebola. Tests detected no Ebola (Yorkshire Post 2015).

May 24, 2015 (Sunday)

Mohamed Sesay is the only survivor of an eight-person laboratory unit in Sierra Leone. Sesay was working in the Lassa fever laboratory at the Kenema Government Hospital when the Ebola outbreak struck. As the outbreak exploded, he and his colleagues tested an ever-increasing number of blood samples for Ebola. Over time each team member, including Sesay, contracted Ebola. All of the others died, leaving Sesay as the only survivor of the group (World Health Organization 2015y).

May 25, 2015 (Monday)

Six Guineans have been arrested for transporting a corpse in a taxi. The body was propped upright between three people and dressed in a T-shirt, jeans, and sunglasses. The deception was discovered when the "passenger" remained motionless during a checkpoint inspection (BBC 2015p).

May 26, 2015 (Tuesday)

More people were hospitalized in Dallas, Texas, during to the Ebola outbreak than previously reported. In addition to Amber Vinson and Nina Pham, 12 other people were hospitalized with Ebola-like symptoms, including 9 healthcare workers. All tested negative for Ebola and were released (Jacobson 2015).

May 27, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 27,049 (80 new) Fatalities: 11,149 (14 new) (World Health Organization 2015z)

May 29, 2015 (Friday)

An angry crowd attacked a police station and public buildings in the village of Kamsar, Guinea, today. The attack started when aid workers tried to identify a woman who was thought to have had contact with an Ebola patient (Brice 2015).

June 1, 2015 (Monday)

UN Ebola chief Dr. David Nabarro is optimistic about the course of Sierra Leone's Ebola fight. He says a great deal of progress is being made and it will probably only be a couple of weeks before the outbreak in Sierra Leone is over (Al Jazeera 2015b).

Sierra Leone's Chiefdom of Kaffu Bullom is experiencing a surge in Ebola cases. During the past week, six people have died from Ebola in the chiefdom. The spike started when an infected person returned to area from Kambia. The surge is of particular concern because an international airport is located in the chiefdom (Awareness Times 2015b, Bruz 2015).

Sierra Leonean lawmaker Alie Badara has been arrested for conducting an unsafe burial. His father died and Badara washed his corpse and conducted traditional burial rites (AFP 2015o).

June 2, 2015 (Tuesday)

Kenya Airways has resumed flights to Sierra Leone (Ngunze 2015).

June 3, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 27,181 (132 new) Fatalities: 11,162 (13 new) (World Health Organization 2015aa)
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Ebola activity remains relatively high in West Africa. During the week ending May 31, 2015, 25 new confirmed cases occurred in Guinea and Sierra Leone (World Health Organization 2015aa).

Travelers arriving in the United States from West Africa are still being monitored for Ebola. Virginia says it is currently monitoring 103 travelers (WRIC 2015).

June 4, 2015 (Thursday)

The WHO is worried that the start of the West African rainy season will make field operations and Ebola containment more difficult (BERNAMA 2015).

June 7, 2015 (Sunday)

A 6-day, door-to-door Ebola campaign has started in Boké and Coyah Prefectures, Guinea (World Health Organization 2015ac)

June 8, 2015 (Monday)

Guinea and Sierra Leone have both extended their health emergencies. The continued states of emergency will allow officials to keep anti-Ebola protocols and restrictions in place (Radio Cadena Agramonte 2015).

June 9, 2015 (Tuesday)

UNMEER's headquarters in Accra, Ghana, will close at the end of June 2015 (BBC 2015q). The station was established in September 2014 to help coordinate the international response to the outbreak.

June 10, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 27,273 (92 new) Fatalities: 11,173 (11 new) (World Health Organization 2015ab)
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The decline in West African Ebola cases appears to have stalled. There were 31 new confirmed cases during the week ending June 7, 2015. Sixteen cases were in Guinea and 15 in Sierra Leone (World Health Organization 2015ab).

The infected Italian nurse, now identified as Stefano Marongiu, has recovered from Ebola and been released from the hospital (AFP 2015p).

June 11, 2015 (Thursday)

Dr. Abdul Kamara is the National Lab Services Manager of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation in Sierra Leone. He says between May 2014 and June 9, 2015, the lab conducted 53,784 Ebola tests. Of these, 45,146 were negative and 8638 were positive (Awoko 2015e).

Britain has finalized the design for a medal for UK workers who helped with the West African Ebola outbreak. The medal's obverse will have a portrait of the Queen designed by Ian Rank-Broadley. The reverse will be designed by John Bergdahl and feature a flame over the Ebola virus. Above the flame will be the words "For Service." Below the flame will be the words "Ebola Epidemic West Africa." More than 3000 medals are expected to be issued. They will be made by the Worcestershire Medal Service in Bromsgrove (Wilson 2015).

June 12, 2015 (Friday)

President of Sierra Leone Ernest Bai Koroma has announced a new 3-week, day-time curfew for Kambia and Port Loko Districts (Reuters 2015w). The curfew will begin immediately and run from 0600 to 1800 h each day. Sierra Leone's health minister says there are currently 22 people in Ebola treatment centers in the country, all in Kambia and Port Loko Districts (Bangkok Post 2015; Reuters 2015w).

June 17, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 27,341 (68 new) Fatalities: 11,184 (11 new) (World Health Organization 2015ac)
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The United States has started to scale back airport screening for travelers arriving from Liberia. Liberian passengers still have to enter the United States through one of the five designated airports, but much less actual screening will take place (AllAfrica 2015m).

A 5-year study has started in Liberia to assess the long-term health effects of Ebola (e.g., post-Ebola syndrome). The study will also help determine how long survivors need to abstain from sex after they recover from the disease (Fox 2015f). Six survivors enrolled for the study at JFK hospital in Monrovia today (AFP 2015q).

June 19, 2015 (Friday)

Tekmira Pharmaceuticals will stop testing the TKM-Ebola-Guinea drug in Sierra Leone. It is a bit unclear why the company will stop the tests. The study's lead investigator says the research has reached a statistical endpoint (Ranosa 2015). This could mean the effect size of the drug is small. It could also mean that falling case numbers in Sierra Leone will prevent a large enough sample size from being obtained.

June 22, 2015 (Monday)

Two new Ebola cases have occurred in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in a slum known as Magazine. Freetown's last known case occurred 3 weeks ago. Officials say the first victim is a fisherman who caught the disease from his girlfriend in Port Loko. The second case is a person in the fisherman's home (Reuters 2015x).

Liberian businessman Delino Kollie is distributing cell phones to village chiefs along the Liberia-Guinea border. Kollie is concerned that Ebola could be reintroduced to Liberia from Guinea. He is urging chiefs to contact government officials if they suspect anyone with Ebola has entered their village. Phones will be given to about 20 chiefs (AllAfrica 2015n).

June 23, 2015 (Tuesday)

In Guinea, the disruption and fear caused by the Ebola outbreak caused 74,000 fewer malaria cases to be evaluated by medical workers in 2014 (Plucinski et al. 2015).

June 24, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 27,479 (138 new) Fatalities: 11,222 (38 new) (World Health Organization 2015ad)

There were 12 new confirmed Ebola cases in Guinea during the week ending June 21, 2015. There were eight new cases in Sierra Leone (World Health Organization 2015ad).

Dr. Amadou Talibe, an Ebola Response team worker in Dubreka, Guinea, believes the high mobility of the Guinean people is causing the uptick in Ebola cases (Bah 2015).

June 25, 2015 (Thursday)

Guinea has placed the villages of Sikhourou Koloteya, Tanéné, Bamba, and Tamarasy under 21-day quarantine. All four communities have had Ebola cases in the last few weeks. During the quarantine period, health officials will go door-to-door to provide information about Ebola and look for hidden cases. Sikhourou Koloteya is under quarantined as of today. The other villages will begin their quarantines tomorrow (Reuters 2015y).

Field tests of Corgenix Medical Corp's ReEBOV Ebola test have yielded very positive results. Test samples were assessed with both PCR and the ReEBOV finger-prick test. PCR is considered to be 100% accurate, but is time consuming. The fingerprick test takes only 15 min. The fingerprick test correctly identified all Ebola-positive samples. However, it also indicated that some uninfected samples were Ebola-positive. Thus, the ReEBOV test is considered to have 100% sensitivity and 92% specificity. Researchers are very happy with these results. The new test will allow Ebola cases to be rapidly identified in the field (Williams 2015b).

June 26, 2015 (Friday)

Three doctors and 28 nurses have been quarantined in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The healthcare workers assisted a pregnant, Ebola-positive woman. The woman is the third Ebola case reported from Freetown in the last week (AAP and Reuters 2015).

June 28, 2015 (Sunday)

Sierra Leone will crack down on violators of the country's anti-Ebola laws. Previously, almost all violators (such as those who practiced unsafe burials) were fined. The fines, however, have not stopped people from breaking the laws. Now violators will face 6 months in jail without the option of fines. There are currently 1029 people under quarantine in Sierra Leone (AFP 2015r).

June 30, 2015 (Tuesday)

A new Ebola case has been confirmed in Liberia. A 17-year-old boy [Abraham Memaigar] died on June 28, 2015, in the village of Nedowein near the country's international airport (Doucleff 2015; Reuters 2015z). He had been diagnosed with malaria, but samples taken before his death tested positive for Ebola (Fallah 2015). To see if these results were accurate, his body was exhumed and additional samples were taken. They confirmed the boy died from Ebola (Fallah 2015). This is the first known Ebola case in Liberia since the country was declared Ebola-free on May 9, 2015. Liberian officials are urging citizens to stay calm. They say the victim's corpse has been buried and contact tracing is underway (Doucleff 2015). Nearby homes have been quarantined (Doucleff 2015).

July 1, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 27,550 (71 new) Fatalities: 11,235 (13 new) (World Health Organization 2015ae)
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Officials have confirmed two more Ebola cases in Liberia (Reuters 2015aa). The Liberian Information Ministry says both of the new cases live in or near the deceased teenager's house (Reuters 2015aa). One of the new patients is 24 years old, the other is 27 (Reuters 2015z). Officials have not yet determined how the initial victim became infected. It does not appear that he had any connections to Guinea or Sierra Leone (AllAfrica 2015o). Liberia's Deputy Health Minister says there are no plans to close Liberia's borders with Guinea or Sierra Leone (David 2015).

There are only seven patients in Ebola treatment centers in Sierra Leone (Awoko 2015f).

July 2, 2015 (Thursday)

About 100 people who had contact with Abraham Memaigar, the most recent Liberian Ebola fatality, are now under surveillance in Liberia (Fallah 2015). Four of these people are considered at high risk of exposure and have been taken to Monrovia for monitoring (Reuters 2015z). Neighbors say that Memaigar shared a meal of dog meat with several people. Three of these people have developed Ebola (Toweh and Giahyue 2015). The villagers think the meat is the source of the infection (Fallah 2015; Toweh and Giahyue 2015).

The CDC says 10,344 people were monitored for Ebola in the United States between November 2014 and March 2015 (Rettner 2015).

Government health officials in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the WHO are investigating a possible Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On June 26, 2015, six hunters became ill with Ebola-like symptoms in the village of Masambio. Four have since died (Reuters 2015ab). If it is Ebola, it is unclear if these infections are related to the West African outbreak or if they represent a separate disease event.

July 3, 2015 (Friday)

It is still unclear how Abraham Memaigar contracted Ebola. An anonymous villager says that, despite his family's denial, the boy actually did visit Guinea. He may have crossed into Guinea to see relatives when his soccer team traveled to Zorzor, Liberia, for a match (Front Page Africa 2015).

July 4, 2015 (Saturday)

The sick hunters in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have all tested negative for Ebola (Reuters 2015ac).

July 6, 2015 (Monday)

UN Special Envoy David Nabarro says as the outbreak winds down, Ebola flareups, like the one currently underway in Liberia, could continue for some time. He also says it is unclear how the recent Liberian Ebola victims became infected. They might have been infected through an undetected train of transmission, they may have caught the disease from a survivor, or they might have been infected from an outside zoonotic source (Boseley 2015c). This last possibility may refer to the dog meat some of the recent victims are reported to have consumed.

July 7, 2015 (Tuesday)

Researchers in Liberia have recovered and tested the remains of the dog linked to the new Liberian Ebola cases. The remains, said to be in bad condition, tested negative for Ebola (Reuters 2015ad).

July 8, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 27,609 (59 new) Fatalities: 11,261 (26 new) (World Health Organization 2015af)

Two more Liberians have tested positive for Ebola. This brings the total number of cases in the county's recent flare-up to five (Schnirring 2015).

Sierra Leone will keep its current curfews in effect until Ebola is eliminated. The curfews are part of Operation *Northern Push*, which is an effort to end Ebola in the country's northwest regions (AFP 2015s).

July 9, 2015 (Thursday)

Genetic analysis of the virus isolated from Abraham Memaigar suggests he may have caught Ebola from a survivor rather than a current Ebola patient. The virus that killed Memaigar is most similar to the strain that was circulating in Liberia in July–August 2014. That strain is genetically different from the strain that is currently circulating in Guinea and Sierra Leone. If the new infection did come from a survivor, it is unclear how. Sexual transmission seems the most likely route, although Ebola can remain active in a several body areas (like the fluids of the eyes) long after a survivor has recovered (Fink 2015d).

July 11, 2015 (Saturday)

Two Ebola patients fled from a treatment center outside Freetown, Sierra Leone, today. The 32-year-old woman and 8-year-old girl were located in the evening and returned to the clinic (AFP 2015t).

July 13, 2015 (Monday)

Meyer et al. (2015) report that an experimental aerosolized Ebola vaccine provides full protection to rhesus macaques.

July 14, 2015 (Tuesday)

A Liberian woman died from Ebola shortly after she was admitted to a hospital in Monrovia (AFP and Reuters 2015b). The victim, Kebbeh Kollie, is the sixth known victim of the new Liberian outbreak (Giahyue 2015c). Kollie was the sister of one of the other five Liberian Ebola cases. Sixteen people are currently under quarantine in the country (Giahyue 2015c).

July 15, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 27,678 (69 new) Fatalities: 11,276 (15 new) (World Health Organization 2015ag)

An International Medical Corps nurse has died from Ebola in Sierra Leone (O'Carroll 2015f).

July 16, 2015 (Thursday)

Due to the increase in Ebola cases in Freetown, Sierra Leone, the 34 Military Hospital will start admitting Ebola patients again (Reuters 2015ae).

Some Ebola burial teams in Sierra Leone are reportedly extorting bribes to safely bury Ebola victims. Bribes of up to \$247 are being requested before burials will be performed. Ebola Czar Paolo Conteh says these reports are being investigated (Reuters 2015ae).

MSF currently has 92 international and ~1760 native staff on the ground in Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone (Médecins Sans Frontières 2015b).

July 17, 2015 (Friday)

The four remaining Liberian Ebola patients have all recovered. The patients will be discharged with a ceremony on Monday, July 20, 2015 (Associated Press 2015l). Despite this good news, Liberian officials are looking for a male herbalist who fled quarantine in Nimba County (Reuters 2015af). The herbalist was under observation because he had treated Abraham Memaigar (Reuters 2015af).

July 20, 2015 (Monday)

The last four Liberian Ebola patients, two men and two boys, were released from the ELWA-2 clinic in Monrovia today (AFP 2015u). There are now no known Ebola cases in Liberia.

July 22, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 27,741 (63 new) Fatalities: 11,284 (8 new) (World Health Organization 2015ah)
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There were 26 new confirmed Ebola cases during the week ending July 19, 2015. Twenty-two were in Guinea and four were in Sierra Leone (World Health Organization 2015ah).

July 23, 2015 (Thursday)

The United Kingdom has relaxed its Ebola screening procedures for travelers arriving from West Africa (BBC 2015r). On-site screenings will no longer take place at the Birmingham or Manchester airports or at the Eurostar terminal in St. Pancras. However, travelers arriving at these sites will still be screened over the phone. Normal screening procedures will continue at Heathrow and Gatwick airports where more than 90% of West African travelers enter the UK (BBC 2015r; Gibbons 2015).

July 26, 2015 (Sunday)

Ten of Sierra Leone's 14 districts have reported no new Ebola cases in the last 90 days. Tonkolili District reported one new Ebola case on Saturday. It had been 150 days since Tonkolili's last Ebola case (AFP 2015v).

July 29, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 27,784 (43 new) Fatalities: 11,294 (10 new) (World Health Organization 2015ai)
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There were seven new confirmed Ebola cases during the week ending July 26, 2015. Four were in Guinea and three were in Sierra Leone. This is the lowest weekly total in over a year (World Health Organization 2015ai).

July 31, 2015 (Friday)

Phase III efficacy trials of the Merck and NewLink Genetics VSV-ZEBOV Ebola vaccine have yielded extraordinarily promising results [the World Health Organization (2015ai) attributed the vaccine to Merck, Sharp & Dohme; Henao-Restrepo et al. (2015) referred to the vaccine as rVSV-ZEBOV] (Henao-Restrepo et al. 2015; Reuters 2015ag; World Health Organization 2015aj). In Guinea, 4123 high-risk individuals were immediately vaccinated after they had contact with a person who was infected with Ebola (Henao-Restrepo et al. 2015). None of them developed the disease. This suggests that the vaccine might be 100% effective at preventing infection (Reuters 2015ag). The results are so promising the WHO released a press statement today entitled "world on the verge of an effective Ebola vaccine" (World Health Organization 2015ai). The statement described the trial and explained the potential significance of the vaccine. It also said that the trial started on March 23, 2015, but was stopped on July 26, 2015, so that all of the participants,

including those in the control group, could be immediately vaccinated (World Health Organization 2015aj). If the vaccine's efficacy proves to be as high as these initial results suggest, it could be a game-changer for Ebola treatment and prevention. Widespread use of the vaccine could end the current outbreak and prevent future Ebola outbreaks.

There are concerns that there could be a new Ebola flare-up in Sierra Leone. A man died from Ebola in Freetown. He had traveled to the city from Tonkolili to mark the end of Ramadan. He did not know he was infected and had contact with numerous people before he died. As a result, 624 people are now under quarantine (DW 2015).

August 1, 2015 (Saturday)

Despite the positive results of recent Ebola vaccine trials, experts caution that it will probably be at least several months before a vaccine is available for widespread general use (VOA News 2015d).

August 2, 2015 (Sunday)

Two new Ebola cases have occurred in Sierra Leone. Both are relatives of the man who recently died in Freetown (Al Jazeera 2015c).

August 5, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 27,898 (114 new) Fatalities: 11,296 (2 new) (World Health Organization 2015ak)
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There were only two new confirmed Ebola cases during the week ending August 2, 2015: one in Guinea and one in Sierra Leone. This is very good news. However, the WHO cautions that several high-risk events have recently occurred in both countries and there will likely be more cases in the near future (World Health Organization 2015ak).

August 6, 2015 (Thursday)

There are only four known Ebola cases in Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone's Ebola Czar, Paolo Conteh, is optimistic and believes the end of the outbreak may be near (Associated Press 2015m).

August 7, 2015 (Friday)

Due to the drop in cases, Sierra Leone's president has decided to end some of the country's Ebola-fighting regulations. The restrictions on general public gatherings, attending sports activities, and visiting nightclubs and movie theaters are all immediately lifted. The state of emergency is still in effect (Sierra Leone Telegraph 2015).

August 10, 2015 (Monday)

Residents of Sierra Leone are celebrating the lifting of many of the country's Ebola-fighting restrictions. Ten of the country's 14 districts have been Ebola-free for over 100 days (O'Carroll 2015g).

August 11, 2015 (Tuesday)

The Kelekula Interim Care Center has closed in Liberia. The center took care of children who had been rejected by their families because of Ebola [it appears that some of the children had Ebola, others were Ebola orphans]. More than 50 children were housed in the facility during the outbreak, five of them died (Karmo 2015).

Two prototypes of a new infectious patient transport module have been unveiled at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Marietta Georgia. The units, known as Containerized Bio-Containment Systems (CBCS), fit into aircraft and are designed to transport patients with highly infectious diseases (Frampton 2015).

August 12, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 27,965 (67 new) Fatalities: 11,298 (2 new) (World Health Organization 2015al)
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There were three new confirmed Ebola cases during the week ending August 9, 2015: two in Guinea and one in Sierra Leone (World Health Organization 2015al).

Liberia is expanding its screening of travelers from Sierra Leone and Guinea. Liberia is doing everything it can to prevent the virus from being reintroduced to the country (Mahmud 2015).

August 15, 2015 (Saturday)

Sierra Leone has lifted the quarantine of Massessebeh village. This was the last major quarantine in the country. President Ernest Bai Koroma cut the quarantine ropes himself while the villagers celebrated (News24 2015b).

August 17, 2015 (Monday)

There were no new Ebola cases in Sierra Leone during the past week (Mazumdar 2015c). This is the first time since the beginning of the outbreak this has happened. The WHO says the country is down to its last known chain of Ebola transmission (World Health Organization 2015am). This is very good news, but officials continue to stress that the outbreak is not yet over. Two Ebola patients are being treated in the country, 81 people are under surveillance, and 4 people who are known to have had contact with infected individuals are missing (Mazumdar 2015c).

August 19, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 27,988 (23 new) Fatalities: 11,299 (1 new) (World Health Organization 2015an)
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Three new Ebola cases were detected in West Africa during the week ending August 16, 2015, all in Guinea (World Health Organization 2015an).

August 24, 2015 (Monday)

Sierra Leone's last known Ebola patient has been released from the hospital (O'Carroll 2015h; Roy-Macaulay 2015). The patient, a woman named Adama Sankoh, contracted the disease from her 23-year-old son last month (O'Carroll

2015h; Roy-Macaulay 2015). Her son died from Ebola. President Ernest Bai Koroma personally presented Sankoh with her certificate of discharge (Roy-Macaulay 2015).

August 25, 2015 (Tuesday)

The 101st Airborne will receive the Joint Meritorious Unit Award for its work fighting Ebola in Liberia (Kenning 2015)

August 26, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 28,041 (53 new) Fatalities: 11,302 (3 new) (World Health Organization 2015ao)
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Three new Ebola cases were detected in Guinea during the week ending August 23, 2015 (World Health Organization 2015ao).

August 27, 2015 (Thursday)

The CDC has released an updated, detailed set of PPE guidelines for US healthcare workers treating Ebola patients (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2015b).

August 30, 2015 (Sunday)

Sierra Leone has confirmed a new Ebola death (Reuters 2015ah). A 67-year-old woman died in Kambia District on August 29, 2015. Samples collected from her body confirm she had Ebola (Reuters 2015ah). Twenty high-risk contacts have been isolated and will be vaccinated. This is a significant setback for Sierra Leone (Awoko 2015g). Not only does it represent a new Ebola case in the country, but it also suggests there might be other undetected chains of transmission.

September 2, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 28,109 (68 new) Fatalities: 11,305 (3 new) (World Health Organization 2015ap)
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There were three new confirmed Ebola cases during the week ending August 30, 2015. Two were in Guinea and one was in Sierra Leone (World Health Organization 2015ap).

In Sierra Leone, 50 people have been quarantined and 200 will be vaccinated as a result of the new Ebola case (Butty 2015c; Regan 2015).

September 3, 2015 (Thursday)

Liberia is Ebola-free after its recent flare-up (AFP 2015w). This is the second time Liberia has reached Ebola-free status. It is hoped that this time the designation will be permanent.

September 8, 2015 (Tuesday)

Three new Ebola cases have been detected in Sella Kafta village in Kambia District, Sierra Leone. All of the new cases are linked to the Ebola victim who died on August 29, 2015 (ABC News 2015d).

September 9, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 28,183 (74 new) Fatalities: 11,306 (1 new) (World Health Organization 2015aq)

There were two new confirmed Ebola cases during the week ending September 6, 2015: one in Guinea and one in Sierra Leone (World Health Organization 2015aq).

The WHO says male Ebola survivors should be tested monthly until no active virus remains in their semen (Miles 2015). There are increasing concerns that infectious semen of survivors could cause Ebola flare-ups in West Africa.

September 14, 2015 (Monday)

A 16-year-old girl has died from Ebola in Bombali District, Sierra Leone (Al Jazeera 2015d). It has been 169 days since the district's last Ebola case (Al Jazeera 2015d). Officials think the girl may have become infected through sexual contact with a survivor (Quashie 2015). The girl died on Sunday, but it appears her Ebola-positive status was not detected until today. The village of Robuya has been quarantined and seven high-risk contacts have been isolated (Quashie 2015).

September 15, 2015 (Tuesday)

It remains unclear how the most recent Sierra Leone Ebola fatality became infected. Suspicion remains focused on sexual contact she had with an Ebola survivor. However, Bombali's Ebola Response Coordinator says the survivor in question was discharged in March 2015 (6 months ago), much longer than semen is normally thought to remain infectious (Jerry 2015).

September 16, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 28,256 (73 new) Fatalities: 11,306 (0 new) (World Health Organization 2015ar)

There were five new confirmed Ebola cases during the week ending September 13, 2015, all in Sierra Leone. This was the first week in over a year that Guinea did not have a new Ebola case. The last known Guinean case occurred on September 1, 2015, in Conakry (World Health Organization 2015ar). This is also the first week that no confirmed or suspected Ebola deaths occurred, although the situation report does not appear to include the 16-year-old girl who died from Ebola in Sierra Leone on September 13, 2015.

Sierra Leone's GDP is expected to fall by 21.5% in 2015, mostly because of the Ebola outbreak (Sesay 2015).

September 17, 2015 (Thursday)

Sierra Leone is offering \$1000 for information on the whereabouts of Kadiatu Sinneh Kamara. Kamara is a 32-year-old niece of the 67-year-old woman who died from Ebola on August 29, 2015 (APA 2015f, states the woman died on August 28). Kamara seems to have gone into hiding and government officials have been unable to locate her.

Currently, one confirmed and one suspected Ebola case are being treated in Guinea (Wild and Camara 2015).

September 18, 2015 (Friday)

The United States will end Ebola screening for travelers from Liberia on Monday, September 21, 2015 (Jansen 2015a). Screening started October 11, 2014.

September 21, 2015 (Monday)

The Guinean government thinks the Ebola outbreak will be over by November 2015 (Wild and Camara 2015).

September 22, 2015 (Tuesday)

Between October 11, 2014 and September 17, 2015, US airports screened 30,982 travelers from West Africa. No Ebola cases were detected (Jansen 2015b). Infected American doctor Dr. Craig Spencer past through airport screening while he was asymptomatic. He developed Ebola symptoms later.

September 23, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 28,331 (75 new) Fatalities: 11,310 (4 new) (World Health Organization 2015as)
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There were two new confirmed Ebola cases during the week ending September 20, 2015, both in Guinea (World Health Organization 2015as).

September 25, 2015 (Friday)

Kenya Airways has resumed flights to Liberia and Sierra Leone (Reuters 2015ai).

September 27, 2015 (Sunday)

The last two Sierra Leone Ebola patients have been released from the Mathene Treatment Centre in Makeni (AFP 2015x). The country has started another 42-day countdown. If no new cases are detected, the country will be considered Ebola-free.

September 30, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 28,424 (93 new) Fatalities: 11,311 (1 new) (World Health Organization 2015at)
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There were four new confirmed Ebola cases during the week ending September 27, 2015, all in Forecariah, Guinea. One victim is a 10-year-old girl. Two others are traditional healers who treated the girl. The fourth victim is the wife of one of the healers (World Health Organization 2015at)

Nigeria's Arik Air will resume flights to Monrovia, Liberia, starting October 5, 2015 (Aliyu 2015).

October 7, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 28,457 (33 new) Fatalities: 11,312 (1 new)

(World Health Organization 2015au)

There were no new confirmed Ebola cases during the week ending October 4, 2015 (World Health Organization 2015au). This is the first time since March 2014 that no new cases were detected during a week (BBC 2015s; World Health Organization 2015au). This is exceptionally good news and suggests the outbreak is nearing its end. There are no contacts currently under observation in Sierra Leone. In Guinea, 509 contacts remain under surveillance (World Health Organization 2015au).

October 9, 2015 (Friday)

Scottish nurse Pauline Cafferkey has suffered an unusual late complication of her Ebola infection (BBC 2015t). She started feeling ill on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, and checked into the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow, Scotland. Ebola virus particles were found in her body (BBC 2015t). This morning, a military aircraft flew her to the Royal Free Hospital in London (Courier 2015). She is currently in serious condition (Courier 2015). People who had close contact with Cafferkey are being monitored (BBC 2015t).

October 10, 2015 (Saturday)

Pauline Cafferkey traveled rather extensively before her recent Ebola relapse. People she had contact with are very concerned that they may have been exposed to Ebola. Cafferkey visited students at Mossneuk Primary School in East Kilbride, Lanarkshire, on October 5, 2015 (Kirby and Cameron 2015). She also attended an awards reception on September 29, 2015, where she met Samantha Cameron, the wife of the British Prime Minister David Cameron (Kirby and Cameron 2015). Health officials stress that there is little risk that people in the community will contract Ebola.

October 11, 2015 (Sunday)

More information is available about Pauline Cafferkey current illness. She began feeling ill the night of October 5, 2015, and went to an out-of-hours GP clinic at New Victoria hospital in Glasgow. The doctor who examined her thought she had a minor illness and sent her home (Brooks 2015a).

October 12, 2015 (Monday)

Fifty-eight people in the United Kingdom who had close contact with Pauline Cafferkey are being monitored for Ebola. They will be under surveillance for 21 days, during which time they will undergo twice daily temperature checks and be asked to restrict their travel. People who had direct contact with Cafferkey's body fluids have been offered the rVSV-ZEBOV vaccine. The vaccine is not yet licensed, but it seems to have been used successfully in field trials in Guinea (Brooks L 2015a).

October 13, 2015 (Tuesday)

Twenty-five people who had close contact with nurse Pauline Cafferkey have elected to take the experimental rVSV-ZEBOV Ebola vaccine. Fifteen people declined the vaccine or could not take it because of existing medical conditions (Bhutia 2015; Brooks L 2015b).

October 14, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 28,490 (33 new) Fatalities: 11,312 (0 new) (World Health Organization 2015av)

Pauline Cafferkey is now in critical condition. She remains isolated at the Royal Free Hospital in London. Doctors have released very little information about her current illness. News reports have described it as a recurrence of her earlier Ebola infection. Commenting on this unexpected situation, Jonathan Ball, professor of molecular virology at the University of Nottingham, says he is not aware of any other case where Ebola has led to life-threatening complications after a person has recovered (Boseley 2015d).

For the second week in a row, there were no new confirmed Ebola cases in West Africa. In Guinea, 150 contacts remain under surveillance (World Health Organization 2015av).

Deen et al. (2015) report that Ebola RNA can remain in the semen of convalescent patients for at least 9 months. Ebola virus RNA was present in the semen of all men tested 2–3 months after the onset of Ebola (n = 9 men). It was present in the semen of 65% of men 4–6 months after the onset of disease (n = 40 men tested). It was present in the semen of 26% of men 7–9 months after the onset of disease (n = 43 men tested). These results suggest that Ebola could be sexually transmitted long after a man has recovered from Ebola. It is not yet clear, however, how easy or difficult it is for sexual contact to actually lead to infection (Deen et al. 2015).

The Chinese corporation, CanSino Biotechnology Inc., will mass produce an Ebola vaccine that was developed by China's Academy of Military Medical Sciences. The company will produce the vaccine at a new facility in Tianjin. The factory is still under construction and should be completed by 2017–2018 (Reuters 2015aj).

October 15, 2015 (Thursday)

Doctors seem to think Pauline Cafferkey is suffering a relapse of Ebola. Dr. Margaret Harris, Communications Officer for the WHO, says that in some survivors it seems that the Ebola virus lies dormant and then begins reproducing again (Cheng 2015d).

October 16, 2015 (Friday)

Two new Ebola cases have been detected in Guinea: one in Forecariah and the other in Conakry (Reuters 2015ak).

October 19, 2015 (Monday)

Pauline Cafferkey's condition has improved. She is now in serious, but stable condition (Clarke-Billings 2015).

October 21, 2015 (Wednesday)

Total Cases: 28,512 (22 new) Fatalities: 11,313 (1 new) (World Health Organization 2015aw)

Doctors have provided more information about Pauline Cafferkey's recent illness (BBC 2015u). They say she developed meningitis as a result of her Ebola infection. A small amount of virus had remained in her brain after her initial illness and had been slowly replicating. This eventually produced clinical meningitis. Given this unexpected late stage complication, the WHO says physicians should be on the lookout for meningitis in Ebola survivors (BBC 2015u). Fueling these concerns, health officials in Sierra Leone say there have been several unexplained deaths among Ebola survivors (Reuters 2015al). Cafferkey's condition continues to improve (BBC 2015u).

There were three new confirmed Ebola cases in Guinea during the week ending October 18, 2015 (World Health Organization 2015aw).

October 28, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 28,575 (63 new) Fatalities: 11,313 (0 new) (World Health Organization 2015ax)
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There were three new confirmed Ebola cases during the week ending October 25, 2015, all in Guinea (World Health Organization 2015ax). All three were family members of a woman who died from Ebola. The new patients handled the deceased's woman's body without proper protection (Reuters 2015am).

Burial teams in Sierra Leone continue to conduct safe and dignified burials even though there have been no new Ebola cases in the country for several weeks (Marrier d'Unienville 2015).

October 30, 2015 (Friday)

Empirical data suggest that funerals have been a major source of Ebola infection in West Africa. A poster presented by Mills et al. at the meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene reports that of 6403 Ebola victims, 24.5% appear to have been infected while attending a funeral. The percentage of funeral-related infection varies by country. In Sierra Leone, 30.0% of victims were exposed at funerals, in Guinea 23.8%, and in Liberia 14.1% (Susman 2015).

November 1, 2015 (Sunday)

In Guinea, a newborn baby has tested positive for Ebola even though both of his parents are Ebola-negative (APA 2015g). It is unclear if this is a false positive test result. Officials are investigating.

November 4, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 28,607 (32 new) Fatalities: 11,314 (1 new) (World Health Organization 2015ay)
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There was one new confirmed Ebola case in Guinea during the week ending November 1, 2015. This was the infected newborn reported on November 1, 2015 (World Health Organization 2015ay). No new cases were detected in Sierra Leone.

November 7, 2015 (Saturday)

Sierra Leone is now officially Ebola-free (World Health Organization 2015az). It has been 42 days since the last confirmed Ebola case in the country (Reuters 2015an). Celebrations have been relatively low-key, but elaborate ceremonies are planned (Johnson 2015c). Crowds gathered late Friday night to mark the end of the outbreak (Johnson 2015c)

November 8, 2015 (Sunday)

Residents of Freetown, Sierra Leone, held a candlelight vigil to celebrate the end of the Ebola outbreak (Reuters 2015an).

November 9, 2015 (Monday)

Ten workers at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow, Scotland, were accidentally exposed to infected Ebola samples. While Pauline Cafferkey was at the facility, at least one of her samples was not labeled high risk. Consequently, the staff did not use appropriate precautions when they handled her samples. The exposed staff members are now under surveillance (Aitken 2015).

Officials in Guinea say some Guinean citizens are prematurely acting as if Ebola is gone. A spokesman for Guinea's Ebola task force says Guineans are not washing their hands as much as before and have resumed shaking hands (Associated Press 2015n).

November 11, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 28,635 (28 new) Fatalities: 11,314 (0 new) (World Health Organization 2015ba)
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There were no new confirmed Ebola cases during the week ending November 8, 2015. Guinea is the only Ebola-active country (World Health Organization 2015ba).

November 12, 2015 (Thursday)

Pauline Cafferkey has made a full recovery from her recent attack of Ebola-induced meningitis. She has been transferred from the Royal Free Hospital in London to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow for follow-up care (BBC 2015v).

November 14, 2015 (Saturday)

The last 68 Ebola contacts have been released from quarantine in Guinea. There are no longer any people in the country known to have had contact with an Ebola victim. Officials are cautiously optimistic that the end of the outbreak may be in sight (Reuters 2015ao).

November 17, 2015 (Tuesday)

Guinea's last known Ebola patient, a baby girl named Nubia, has recovered at a medical facility in Conakry (Reuters 2015ap). Nubia was born on October 27, 2014.

Her infected mother died from Ebola a few hours after she gave birth to Nubia (Zoroya 2015c). Nubia is the first baby born with Ebola known to have survived (Zoroya 2015c). If no new cases occur, Guinea will be considered Ebola-free in 42 days.

November 18, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 28,634 (-1 new) Fatalities: 11,314 (0 new) (World Health Organization 2015bb)
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There were no new confirmed Ebola cases during the week ending November 15, 2015 (World Health Organization 2015bb). It is unclear why the total number of Ebola cases was reduced by one.

November 19, 2015 (Thursday)

A 15-year-old-boy named Nathan Gbotoe has been diagnosed with Ebola in Liberia (initial reports indicated he was 10 years old) (Al Jazeera 2015e; Beaubien 2015; Reuters 2015aq). Gbotoe began feeling sick on November 14, 2015 (Beubien 2015). It is unclear how he became infected (Beaubien 2015). Gbotoe is the first Liberian Ebola patient since the country was declared Ebola-free on September 3, 2015.

November 20, 2015 (Friday)

Three new Ebola cases have been identified in Liberia (Cooper and Fink 2015). The new victims are Nathan Gbotoe, his father, and his 8-year-old brother (World Health Organization 2015bc).

November 22, 2015 (Sunday)

A total of 153 contacts are under surveillance in Liberia due to the recent Ebola flare-up (Giahyue 2015d).

November 23, 2015 (Monday)

Nathan Gbotoe has died from Ebola in Paynesville, Liberia (Chan 2015).

November 25, 2015 (Wednesday)

```
Total cases: 28,637 (3 new) Fatalities: 11,314 (0 new) (World Health Organization 2015bc)
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The three new Ebola cases in today's situation report are all related to the current Liberian flare-up. Nathan Gbotoe's death is not yet included in the fatality data (World Health Organization 2015bc).

November 28, 2015 (Saturday)

Guinea's last known Ebola patient, the baby girl Nubia, has left the hospital (Farge 2015d).

December 2, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 28,637 (0 new) Fatalities: 11,315 (1 new) (World Health Organization 2015bd)
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There were no new Ebola cases during the week ending November 29, 2015 (World Health Organization 2015bd).

December 3, 2015 (Thursday)

The last two Liberian Ebola patients, the father and brother of Nathan Gbotoe, have been released from the hospital. Close contacts of the family are still being monitored (AFP 2015y).

December 9, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 28,637 (0 new) Fatalities: 11,315 (0 new) (World Health Organization 2015be)
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There were no new Ebola cases during the week ending December 6, 2015 (World Health Organization 2015be).

December 11, 2015 (Friday)

The last Liberian Ebola contacts have ended their surveillance periods (Doctor 2015). None developed Ebola.

The British Red Cross has ended its Ebola outbreak appeal. The appeal started in August 2014 when the agency began to solicit for donations to help with the West African Ebola outbreak. The agency collected \$13.3 M during the appeal (British Red Cross 2015b).

December 16, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 28,640 (3 new) Fatalities: 11,315 (0 new) (World Health Organization 2015bf)
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There were no new confirmed Ebola cases during the week ending December 13, 2015 (World Health Organization 2015bf).

December 18, 2015 (Friday)

Experts think the recent Liberian Ebola flare-up may have originated with Nathan Gbotoe's mother, Ophelia. Ophelia is an Ebola survivor and was pregnant when Gbotoe became infected (it is unclear at what stage of pregnancy). It is thought that latent Ebola in her system may have become infectious when pregnancy weakened her immune system (Farge and Giahyue 2015).

December 22, 2015 (Tuesday)

Sierra Leone has been removed from the CDC's list of nations subject to enhanced screening for health conditions and diseases (Vaccine News Reports 2015).

December 23, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 28,637 (-3 new) Fatalities: 11,315 (0 new) (World Health Organization 2015bg)
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There were no new Ebola cases during the week ending December 20, 2015 (World Health Organization 2015bg).

December 29, 2015 (Tuesday)

Guinea is officially Ebola-free (World Health Organization 2015bh). Two 21-day incubation periods have passed since the last known Ebola case occurred in the country. Celebrations are planned, but given Ebola's ability to reemerge, officials are continuing to monitor the situation. Guinea will remain under heightened surveillance for the next 90 days (Du Lac 2015).

There are no known Ebola cases in West Africa.

December 30, 2015 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 28,637 (0 new) Fatalities: 11,315 (0 new) (World Health Organization 2015bi)
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There were no new confirmed Ebola cases during the week ending December 27, 2015 (World Health Organization 2015bi).

January 3, 2016 (Sunday)

```
Total cases: 28,637 (0 new) Fatalities: 11,315 (0 new) (World Health Organization 2016a)
```

There were no new confirmed Ebola cases during the week ending January 3, 2016 (World Health Organization 2016a).

January 6, 2016 (Wednesday)

California will no longer monitor travelers arriving from West Africa for Ebola. Monitoring began on October 12, 2014. Since then ~1300 travelers have been monitored in the state. None developed Ebola (Morin 2016).

January 7, 2016 (Thursday)

Van Griensven et al. (2016) find that convalescent plasma does not significantly help Ebola patients. The fatality rate for 84 Ebola patients in Guinea transfused with 500 ml of convalescent plasma was 31%, compared to 38% for untreated patients. When the results were adjusted for patient age and Ebola virus cycle (i.e., how far along the infection was), there was even less difference. Thus, convalescent plasma does not appear to be an effective treatment for Ebola patients (Van Griensven et al. 2016).

January 10, 2016 (Sunday)

New York City will no longer monitor travelers arriving from West Africa for Ebola (Goldberg 2015).

January 14, 2016 (Thursday)

The West African Ebola outbreak is officially over (Maron 2016; Schlein 2015; World Health Organization 2016b). Two incubation periods have passed since the last known Liberian Ebola case. The WHO has declared Liberia to be Ebola-free (World Health Organization 2016b). All West African countries are now Ebola-free and there are no known Ebola cases anywhere in the world. However, additional flare-ups are likely given the nature of the disease and the ability of survivors to remain infectious (World Health Organization 2016b).

January 15, 2016 (Friday)

A new Ebola case has been confirmed in Sierra Leone (Fofana 2016; Karimi and McKenzie 2016). The victim is a 22-year-old female student named Mariatu Jalloh. She became sick in the village of Bamoi Luma near the Guinean border. She died at home on January 12, 2016. While she was infected, Jalloh had contact with at least 27 people (Fofana 2016). The case underscores the WHO's warning that there will likely be Ebola flare-ups for some time (World Health Organization 2016b).

January 18, 2016 (Monday)

Sierra Leone has placed 109 people into quarantine in response to the new Ebola case (Gaffey 2016a).

January 20, 2016 (Wednesday)

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Total cases: 28,638 (1 new) Fatalities: 11,315 (1 new) (World Health Organization 2016c)
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Fifty contacts of Sierra Leone's new Ebola case are considered at high risk of exposure (World Health Organization 2016c).

January 21, 2016 (Thursday)

A second person has developed Ebola in Sierra Leone. The new victim [Memunatu Kalokoh, Jalloh's aunt] helped prepare Mariatu Jalloh's body for burial (Roy-Macaulay 2016).

January 26, 2016 (Tuesday)

Police in Barmoi, Sierra Leone, have clashed with demonstrators protesting against Ebola restrictions. Three people were taken to the hospital with gunshot wounds (BBC 2016a).

February 3, 2016 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 28,639 (1 new) Fatalities: 11,316 (0 new) (World Health Organization 2016d)

February 4, 2016 (Thursday)

Fifty-five people in Sierra Leone who had contact with the most recent Ebola cases have been released from quarantine. Another 48 known contacts are missing and have not been located (Gaffey 2016b).

February 8 2016 (Monday)

Sierra Leone's last known Ebola patient, 38-year-old Memunatu Kalokoh, has recovered and been released from the hospital (Reuters 2016a).

February 18, 2016 (Thursday)

The United States has suspended Ebola screening at all airports (AFP 2016a).

February 23, 2016 (Tuesday)

Nurse Pauline Cafferkey has been admitted to the hospital again. She was initially treated at Glasgow hospital, but has been transferred to the Royal Free Hospital in London. It is unclear what is wrong with her, but she is currently in stable condition (Siddique 2016).

February 28, 2016 (Sunday)

Pauline Cafferkey has been released from the hospital after recovering from a complication related to Ebola (BBC 2016b).

March 18, 2016 (Friday)

Two people have died from Ebola in Guinea (AllAfrica 2016; BBC 2016c). The bodies of a married couple both tested positive for Ebola. Three other people may be infected (AllAfrica 2016).

March 19, 2016 (Saturday)

A young girl has died from Ebola at the Nzérékoré treatment center in Guinea (Reuters 2016b). She is the latest victim of the recent flare-up. An Ebola treatment center in southern Guinea has reopened to treat an infected woman and her child (MENAFN and AFP 2016). Both are relatives of the recent victims (MENAFN and AFP 2016).

March 22, 2016 (Tuesday)

A fifth person has died from Ebola in Guinea (Reuters 2016c). The deceased man had direct contact with the other recent victims (Reuters 2016c). A total of 816 contacts are now under quarantine in Guinea (Gaffey 2016c).

Liberia has closed its border with Guinea as a precaution (Reuters 2016c).

March 29, 2016 (Tuesday)

The WHO has downgraded the global health risk from Ebola. The WHO says the outbreak is essentially over and the agency no longer considers the outbreak to be an extraordinary health event (Roberts 2016).

March 30, 2016 (Wednesday)

Total cases: 28,646 (7 new) Fatalities: 11,323 (7 new)

(World Health Organization 2016e)

March 31, 2016 (Thursday)

A 30-year-old woman has died from Ebola in Monrovia, Liberia. She was on her way to the hospital when she died (Sun Daily 2016).

April 2, 2016 (Saturday)

In Guinea, about 800 people who may have had contact with the recent Ebola victims have been vaccinated (Sun Daily 2016).

April 3, 2016 (Sunday)

The 5-year-old son of the latest Liberian Ebola victim has developed Ebola (Paye-Layleh 2016).

April 4, 2016 (Monday)

The woman who died from Ebola in Liberia on March 31, 2016, had traveled to Guinea. Her husband had died from the disease in Guinea. She crossed back into Liberia on March 21, 2016 (AFP 2016b).

April 7, 2016 (Thursday)

Ninety-seven people who had contact with the recent Ebola patients are under surveillance in Liberia (Parley 2016).

April 13, 2016 (Wednesday)

Mali says it is trying to locate two Guinean women who contact with the recent Ebola patients. The women are thought to have entered Mali on April 10, 2016 (Associated Press 2016).

April 20, 2016 (Wednesday)

Guinea has discharged its last known Ebola patient, an elderly man named Gbana Kalivogui (Vanguard 2016).

May 2, 2016 (Monday)

Liberia has discharged its last known Ebola patient, a 2-year-old boy. A ceremony was held to mark his release (World Health Organization 2016f).

June 9, 2016 (Thursday)

The recent Ebola flare-up in Liberia is officially over (World Health Organization 2016g). This marks the end of the 2013–2016 Ebola outbreak.

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