

This weekly bulletin provides updates on threats monitored by ECDC.

I. Executive summary

EU Threats

Influenza – Multistate (Europe) – Monitoring season 2018 – 2019

Opening date: 8 October 2018

Latest update: 21 December 2018

Influenza transmission in Europe shows a seasonal pattern, with peak activity during the winter months.

→Update of the week

During week 50, influenza activity remained at baseline or low levels in the majority of countries throughout the WHO European Region. However, most countries are starting to see geographic spread (widespread, regional or local) within their borders.

Non EU Threats

Ebola virus disease - tenth outbreak - Democratic Republic of the Congo - 2018

Opening date: 1 August 2018

Latest update: 21 December 2018

On 1 August 2018, the Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared the 10th outbreak of Ebola virus disease in the country. The outbreak affects North Kivu and Ituri Provinces in the northeast of the country close to the border with Uganda. On 17 October 2018, the International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee concluded that the epidemic does not at this stage constitute a public health emergency of international concern.

→Update of the week

Since the previous CDTR with data as of 12 December 2018, the Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has reported 45 additional cases.

As of 19 December 2018, according to the [Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#), there have been 560 Ebola virus disease cases (512 confirmed, 48 probable), including 336 deaths (288 in confirmed and 48 in probable cases), since the beginning of the outbreak.

On 21 December, [officials in the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) announced that elections scheduled for 23 December 2018 have been postponed until 30 December 2018.

II. Detailed reports

Influenza – Multistate (Europe) – Monitoring season 2018 – 2019

Opening date: 8 October 2018

Latest update: 21 December 2018

Epidemiological summary

Week 50, 10-16 December 2018

Influenza activity remained at baseline or low levels in the majority of countries throughout the WHO European Region. However, most countries are starting to see geographic spread (widespread, regional or local) within their borders.

The majority of influenza virus detections were type A among both inpatients and outpatients.

For week 50 in 2018, data from 20 Member States and areas reporting to the EuroMOMO project indicated all-cause mortality to be at expected levels for this time of year.

Source: [Flu News Europe](#) | [EuroMOMO](#)

ECDC assessment

Influenza activity and geographic spread remain at seasonally expected levels. Influenza A(H3N2) and A(H1N1) co-circulate in Europe. Influenza vaccine coverage among the elderly, chronic disease risk groups and healthcare workers was suboptimal in most of the EU Member states, according to the [VENICE report](#).

Actions

ECDC monitors influenza activity in Europe during the winter season and publishes its weekly report on the [Flu News Europe website](#).

Recommendations on the composition of the 2018–2019 influenza virus vaccine are available from the [WHO](#) website.

Ebola virus disease - tenth outbreak - Democratic Republic of the Congo - 2018

Opening date: 1 August 2018

Latest update: 21 December 2018

Epidemiological summary

As of 19 December 2018, there have been 560 Ebola virus disease cases (512 confirmed, 48 probable), including 336 deaths (288 in confirmed and 48 in probable cases), since the beginning of the outbreak.

Fifteen health zones in two provinces have reported confirmed or probable Ebola virus disease cases: Beni, Biena, Butembo, Kalungata, Katwa, Kyondo, Mabalako, Masereka, Mutwanga, Musienene, Oicha, and Vuhovi Health Zones in North Kivu Province and Komanda, Mandima and Tchomia Health Zones in Ituri Province.

Response activities: According to the WHO Regional Office for Africa Situation Report number 115, as of 18 December 2018, 7 787 contacts have been identified. Among them, 93% have been followed up.

According to the latest Ministry of Health update and as of 19 December 2018, 49 840 people have been vaccinated.

Sources: [Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) | [WHO](#)

ECDC assessment

ECDC assessment: The compassionate use of the Ebola virus disease vaccine and experimental treatments support response efforts. However, the implementation of response measures in outbreak areas remains challenging because of the prolonged humanitarian crisis, unstable security situation arising from a complex armed conflict and mistrust in the population to response teams. The number of outbreak cases and affected areas are increasing and it is unlikely that the outbreak will be controlled in the near future.

While no confirmed cases in neighbouring countries have been documented so far, the fact that the outbreak is ongoing in areas with an important cross-border population flow between Rwanda and Uganda remains of particular concern.

The probability that EU/EEA citizens who live or travel in Ebola virus disease-affected areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo are exposed to the disease is low provided that they adhere to precautionary measures. The overall risk of introduction and further spread of Ebola virus disease within the EU/EEA is very low. However, the risk can only be eliminated by stopping transmission at a local level.

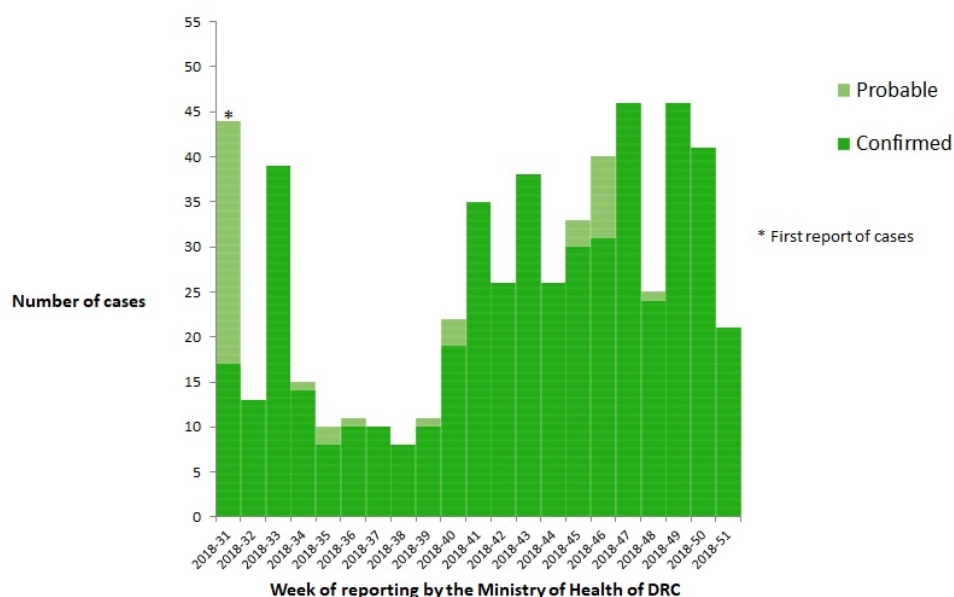
WHO assessment: As of 13 December 2018, the [WHO assessment](#) that the risk of spread is low at the global level, but remains very high at national and regional levels.

Actions

ECDC will publish today an update of its [rapid risk assessment](#).

Distribution of confirmed and probable cases of Ebola Virus Disease, North Kivu and Ituri, Democratic Republic of the Congo, as of 19 December 2018

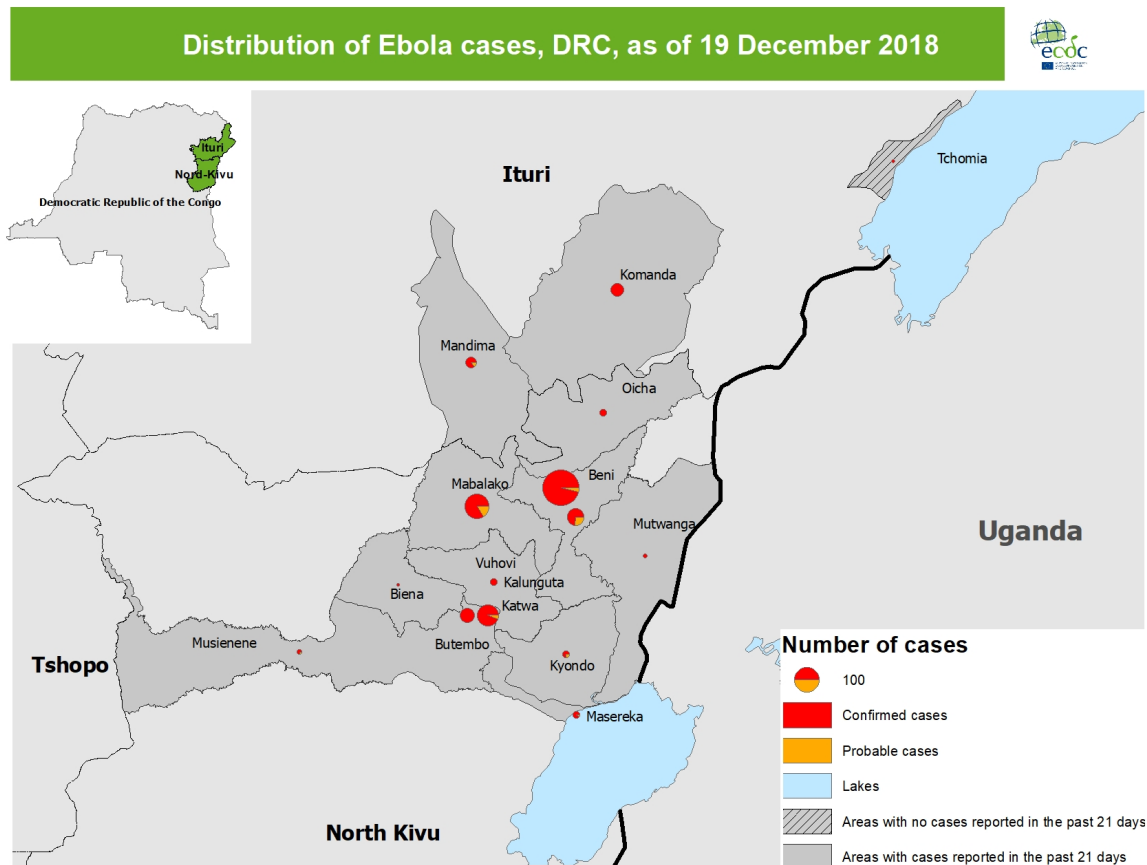
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The MoH of DRC are currently conducting data cleaning. Thus, these figures are likely to change over coming days as cases are being reclassified.

Geographical distribution of confirmed and probable cases of Ebola virus disease, North Kivu and Ituri Provinces, Democratic Republic of the Congo, as of 19 December 2018

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The Communicable Disease Threat Report may include unconfirmed information which may later prove to be unsubstantiated.