Ebola virus disease: first case at Goma, DRC

Sources

WHO: https://who.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/e70c3804f6044652bc37cbe7d8fcede6c


On July 14th the first case of Ebola virus disease was confirmed in Goma, a city of about 1 million people south of the outbreak’s epicentre, with several UN and international agency and national and international NGOs. Almost 3,000 healthcare workers have so far been vaccinated against the disease in Goma. WHO assesses the risk of spread to neighbouring provinces and countries as very high.

On August 1st, 2018 the outbreak of Ebola was declared in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). On July 16, 2019 WHO online Ebola dashboard announced 12 more cases, with 254 in the last 21 days, which would push the overall outbreak total to 2,501 cases. Over the weekend, the DRC health ministry said 17 more people died from their infections, lifting the fatality count to 1,668. Seven people died in community settings and seven patients died in Ebola treatment centers.

The areas of Ituri and North Kivu provinces affected by Ebola are characterised by poor infrastructure, political instability and ongoing conflict involving scores of armed militia groups and community mistrust of national authorities and outsiders. Since January, there have been 198 attacks against the health response that have resulted in 7 deaths and left 58 healthcare workers and patients injured.

WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, announced that he will reconvene the Emergency Committee as soon as possible to assess the latest development and advise him accordingly to discuss the likely declaration of Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Since the beginning of the current Ebola outbreak in eastern DR Congo, the WHO had on 3 occasions opted not to declare it a global health emergency.

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