

This weekly bulletin provides updates on threats monitored by ECDC.

I. Executive summary

EU Threats

Influenza – Multi-country – Monitoring 2019/2020 season

Opening date: 11 October 2019

Latest update: 3 April 2020

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

→Update of the week

In the European Region, influenza activity appears to be declining overall. High influenza intensity was reported by one Member State, while three Member States and areas reported medium influenza intensity. Widespread influenza activity was reported by five Member States and areas across the Region.

COVID-19 associated with SARS-CoV-2 – Multi-country (World) – 2020

Opening date: 7 January 2020

Latest update: 3 April 2020

On 31 December 2019, the Wuhan Municipal Health and Health Commission reported a cluster of pneumonia cases of unknown aetiology with a common source of exposure at Wuhan's South China Seafood City market. Further investigations identified a novel coronavirus as the causative agent of the respiratory symptoms for these cases. The outbreak has rapidly evolved, affecting other parts of China and other countries. On 30 January 2020, WHO's director declared that the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), accepting the Committee's advice and issuing temporary recommendations under the International Health Regulations (IHR).

→Update of the week

Since 28 March 2020 and as of 3 April 2020, 472 482 cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) (in accordance with the applied case definition in the countries) have been reported, including 27 845 deaths. This means that 47% of the total number of reported cases (1 000 249) and 54% of the total number of reported deaths (51 515) worldwide have been reported in the last week.

Since the last CDTR published on 27 March, 10 new countries reported cases: Botswana, Burundi, Malawi, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Saint Barthelemy, Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba, Sierra Leone, and South Sudan.

In the EU/EEA and the UK, 216 595 cases, including 20 067 deaths, have been reported during the same period (all EU/EEA countries combined). More details are available [here](#).

Non EU Threats

Ebola virus disease - tenth outbreak - Democratic Republic of the Congo - 2018-2020

Opening date: 1 August 2018

Latest update: 3 April 2020

On 1 August 2018, the Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared the tenth outbreak of Ebola virus disease in the country. The outbreak affected North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri Provinces in the north-east of the country, close to the border with Uganda. In 2019, several imported cases from the Democratic Republic of the Congo were detected in Uganda; however, no autochthonous cases have been reported in the country as of today. On 17 July 2019, the [International Health Regulations \(IHR\) Emergency Committee](#) convened, and WHO's Director-General later declared that the outbreak met all the criteria for a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) under the International Health Regulations. On 18 October 2019, and again on 12 February 2020, the Committee decided that the outbreak still constitutes a PHEIC.

→Update of the week

Since the previous CDTR and as of 31 March 2020, the [Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) (DRC) has reported no additional confirmed cases. During the same period, no deaths were reported among confirmed cases.

As of 31 March 2020, no new confirmed cases have been reported since the last confirmed case reported in Beni on 17 February 2020. This case recovered and tested negative twice and was subsequently discharged on 3 March 2020. WHO recommends a period of [42 days](#) of enhanced surveillance (two full incubation periods) after the last person tests negative before declaring the end of the outbreak. WHO [states](#) that flare-ups of new cases remain a risk, both during this 42-day period and afterwards.

According to [WHO](#), response actions are currently still facing increasing limitations, including a shortage of funding, ongoing insecurity, population displacement, lack of access to some areas, and limited staffing and resources amidst other local and global emergencies.

Since the start of the vaccination campaign on 8 August 2018, 301 585 people have been vaccinated with the rVSV-ZEBOV vaccine (Merck & Co). In addition, 20 339 people have been vaccinated with the first dose of the Ad26.ZEBOV/MVA-BN-Filo vaccine (Johnson & Johnson) in the two health areas of Karisimbi in Goma. As of 29 March 2020, 6 834 people have been vaccinated with the second dose of this vaccine.

II. Detailed reports

Influenza – Multi-country – Monitoring 2019/2020 season

Opening date: 11 October 2019

Latest update: 3 April 2020

Epidemiological summary

Week 13/2020 (23 – 29 March 2020)

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in the Region seems to be affecting healthcare presentations and testing capacities in Member States, which impact both influenza epidemiologic and virologic data, and seasonal patterns.

For the Region overall, influenza activity appears to be declining. High influenza intensity was reported by one Member State; three Member States and areas reported medium influenza intensity. Widespread influenza activity was reported by five Member States and areas across the Region.

The percentage of specimens from patients who presented with ILI or ARI to sentinel primary healthcare sites that tested positive for an influenza virus dropped from 14% in week 12/2020 to 5% for week 13/2020.

Influenza virus types A and B were co-circulating in sentinel source specimens, with a higher proportion (54%) of type A viruses being detected. Of the type A detections, A(H3N2) viruses were the most common (58%). Of the influenza B viruses, all were B/Victoria lineage.

Pooled estimates of all-cause mortality show excess mortality overall within the participating countries, notably in the age group 65 years and older. In some countries, a particularly high excess mortality was reported, including Belgium, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom (England).

2019–2020 season overview:

For the Region as a whole, influenza activity commenced earlier than in recent years and, based on sentinel sampling, first exceeded a positivity rate of 10% in week 47, 2019.

The influenza season for the Region as a whole peaked in week 5 of 2020, reaching a maximum positivity rate of 55%. The peak phase with positivity levels above 50% lasted for just two weeks, week 5 and 6, 2020. In the previous influenza season, rates of influenza positivity exceeded 50% for six weeks.

The majority of circulating viruses were susceptible to neuraminidase inhibitors, supporting early treatment or prophylactic use in accordance with national guidelines.

Interim estimates of 2019–2020 seasonal influenza vaccine effectiveness in the northern hemisphere are available. Vaccination remains the best possible method for prevention of influenza and/or reduction of the risk of serious complications.

WHO has published [recommendations](#) for the composition of influenza vaccines to be used in the 2020–2021 northern hemisphere season. Based on these recommendations the influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, A(H3N2) and B/Victoria-lineage virus components should be updated for the 2020–2021 influenza vaccine.

ECDC and WHO Regional Office for Europe published a joint [Regional Situation Assessment](#) for the 2019–2020 influenza season up to week 49 of 2019, which focused on disease severity and impact on healthcare systems to assist forward planning in Member States.

Sources: [EuroMOMO](#) | [Flu News Europe](#) | [InfluenzaneT](#)

ECDC assessment

Influenza activity appears to be declining in the Region overall. The vast majority of recently circulating influenza viruses in the Region and worldwide were susceptible to neuraminidase inhibitors, which supports the use of antiviral treatment in accordance with national guidelines.

Actions

ECDC monitors influenza activity in Europe during the winter season and publishes its weekly report on the [Flu News Europe](#) website. ECDC monitors influenza activity in the WHO European Region between week 40-2019 and week 20-2020.

COVID-19 associated with SARS-CoV-2 – Multi-country (World) – 2020

Opening date: 7 January 2020

Latest update: 3 April 2020

Epidemiological summary

Since 31 December 2019 and as of 3 April 2020, 1 000 249 cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) have been reported, including 51 515 deaths. The deaths have been reported from Italy (13 917), Spain (10 003), United States (6 053), France (4 503), China (3 326), Iran (3 160), United Kingdom (2 921), Netherlands (1 339), Belgium (1 011), Germany (872), Switzerland (536), Turkey (356), Brazil (299), Sweden (282), Portugal (209), South Korea (174), Indonesia (170), Austria (158), Canada (138), Denmark (123), Ecuador (120), Philippines (107), Ireland (98), Romania (94), Japan (63), Dominican Republic (60), Algeria (58), Poland (57), India (56), Peru (55), Iraq (54), Greece (53), Egypt (52), Malaysia (50), Czechia (44), Morocco (44), Norway (42), Mexico (37), Panama (37), Argentina (34), Israel (34), Pakistan (31), Serbia (31), Luxembourg (30), Russia (30), San Marino (30), Australia (23), Hungary (21), Saudi Arabia (21), Ukraine (20), Colombia (19), Finland (19), Chile (18), Bosnia and Herzegovina (17), Albania (16), Burkina Faso (16), Lebanon (16), Slovenia (16), Andorra (15), Honduras (15), Thailand (15), Tunisia (13), Puerto Rico (12), Democratic Republic of the Congo (11), Estonia (11), North Macedonia (11), Bulgaria (10), Bolivia (9), Cyprus (9), Lithuania (9), United Arab Emirates (8), Cameroon (7), Croatia (7), International conveyance in Japan (7), Mauritius (7), Bangladesh (6), Cuba (6), Moldova (6), Trinidad and Tobago (6), Azerbaijan (5), Ghana (5), Jordan (5), Niger (5), Singapore (5), South Africa (5), Taiwan (5), Afghanistan (4), Armenia (4), Bahrain (4), Belarus (4), Guyana (4), Iceland (4), Uruguay (4), Congo (3), Guam (3), Jamaica (3), Kazakhstan (3), Kenya (3), Mali (3), Paraguay (3), Qatar (3), Sri Lanka (3), Syria (3), Venezuela (3), Angola (2), Costa Rica (2), El Salvador (2), Jersey (2), Montenegro (2), Nigeria (2), Sint Maarten (2), Sudan (2), Togo (2), Uzbekistan (2), Bahamas (1), Botswana (1), Brunei Darussalam (1), Cape Verde (1), Cayman Islands (1), Côte d'Ivoire (1), Curaçao (1), Gabon (1), Gambia (1), Gibraltar (1), Guatemala (1), Isle of Man (1), Kosovo** (1), Kyrgyzstan (1), Libya (1), Mauritania (1), Myanmar (1), New Zealand (1), Nicaragua (1), Northern Mariana Islands (1), Oman (1), Palestine* (1), Senegal (1), United Republic of Tanzania (1), Zambia (1) and Zimbabwe (1).

Cases have been reported on the following continents:

Africa: South Africa (1 462), Algeria (847), Egypt (779), Morocco (708), Tunisia (455), Burkina Faso (288), Cameroon (271), Ghana (204), Senegal (195), Côte d'Ivoire (194), Nigeria (174), Democratic Republic of the Congo (123), Kenya (110), Rwanda (82), Niger (74), Madagascar (59), Guinea (52), Uganda (45), Congo (41), Djibouti (41), Togo (39), Zambia (39), Mali (36), Ethiopia (29), Eritrea (22), United Republic of Tanzania (21), Gabon (18), Equatorial Guinea (15), Benin (13), Namibia (13), Libya (11), Mozambique (10), Seychelles (10), Eswatini (9), Guinea-Bissau (9), Angola (8), Central African Republic (8), Zimbabwe (8), Chad (7), Sudan (7), Cape Verde (6), Liberia (6), Mauritania (6), Somalia (5), Botswana (4), Gambia (4), Burundi (3), Malawi (3) and Sierra Leone (2).

Asia: China (82 465), Iran (50 468), Turkey (18 135), South Korea (10 062), Israel (6 252), Malaysia (3 116), Philippines (2 633), Japan (2 617), India (2 301), Pakistan (2 291), Saudi Arabia (1 885), Thailand (1 875), Indonesia (1 790), Singapore (1 049), United Arab Emirates (1 024), Qatar (949), Iraq (772), Bahrain (643), Lebanon (494), Kazakhstan (386), Kuwait (342), Taiwan (339), Jordan (299), Vietnam (239), Afghanistan (235), Oman (231), Uzbekistan (190), Mauritius (169), Palestine* (155), Sri Lanka (148), Brunei Darussalam (133), Kyrgyzstan (125), Cambodia (114), Bangladesh (56), Myanmar (20), Maldives (19), Syria (16), Mongolia (14), Laos (10), Bhutan (5), Nepal (5) and Timor-Leste (1).

America: United States (245 540), Canada (11 268), Brazil (7 910), Chile (3 404), Ecuador (3 163), Panama (1 475), Peru (1 414), Dominican Republic (1 380), Mexico (1 378), Colombia (1 161), Argentina (1 133), Costa Rica (396), Uruguay (369), Puerto Rico (316), Cuba (233), Honduras (222), Venezuela (144), Bolivia (132), Trinidad and Tobago (97), Paraguay (77), Aruba (60), Guatemala (47), Jamaica (47), El Salvador (46), Barbados (45), Bermuda (35), United States Virgin Islands (33), Cayman Islands (28), Bahamas (24), Sint Maarten (23), Guyana (19), Haiti (18), Saint Lucia (13), Dominica (12), Curaçao (11), Greenland (10), Grenada (10), Suriname (10), Antigua and Barbuda (9), Saint Kitts and Nevis (8), Saint Barthelemy (6), Montserrat (5), Nicaragua (5), Turks and Caicos Islands (5), Anguilla (3), Belize (3), British Virgin Islands (3), Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba (2) and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2).

Europe: Italy (115 242), Spain (110 238), Germany (73 522), France (59 105), United Kingdom (33 718), Switzerland (18 844), Belgium (15 348), Netherlands (14 697), Austria (11 129), Portugal (9 034), Sweden (5 466), Norway (4 935), Czechia (3 858), Ireland (3 849), Russia (3 548), Denmark (3 386), Poland (2 946), Romania (2 738), Luxembourg (2 487), Finland (1 518), Greece (1 514), Iceland (1 319), Serbia (1 171), Croatia (1 011), Slovenia (897), Estonia (858), Ukraine (804), Armenia (663), Lithuania (649), Hungary (585), Bosnia and Herzegovina (532), Moldova (505), Latvia (458), Bulgaria (457), Andorra (428), Slovakia (426), Azerbaijan (400), Cyprus (356), North Macedonia (354), Albania (277), Belarus (254), San Marino (245), Malta (195), Faroe Islands (177), Montenegro (144), Kosovo** (125), Georgia (121), Guernsey (91), Gibraltar (88), Jersey (81),

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Liechtenstein (75), Isle of Man (71), Monaco (60) and Holy See (6).

Oceania: Australia (5 224), New Zealand (772), Guam (82), French Polynesia (37), New Caledonia (16), Northern Mariana Islands (8), Fiji (7) and Papua New Guinea (1).

Other: International conveyance in Japan (696).

** This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.*

*** This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1244/1999 and the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.*

EU/EEA and the UK:

As of 3 April 2020, 482 016 cases have been reported in the EU/EEA and the UK: Italy (115 242), Spain (110 238), Germany (73 522), France (59 105), United Kingdom (33 718), Belgium (15 348), Netherlands (14 697), Austria (11 129), Portugal (9 034), Sweden (5 466), Norway (4 935), Czechia (3 858), Ireland (3 849), Denmark (3 386), Poland (2 946), Romania (2 738), Luxembourg (2 487), Finland (1 518), Greece (1 514), Iceland (1 319), Croatia (1 011), Slovenia (897), Estonia (858), Lithuania (649), Hungary (585), Latvia (458), Bulgaria (457), Slovakia (426), Cyprus (356), Malta (195) and Liechtenstein (75).

As of 3 April 2020, 35 862 deaths have been reported in the EU/EEA and the UK: Italy (13 917), Spain (10 003), France (4 503), United Kingdom (2 921), Netherlands (1 339), Belgium (1 011), Germany (872), Sweden (282), Portugal (209), Austria (158), Denmark (123), Ireland (98), Romania (94), Poland (57), Greece (53), Czechia (44), Norway (42), Luxembourg (30), Hungary (21), Finland (19), Slovenia (16), Estonia (11), Bulgaria (10), Cyprus (9), Lithuania (9), Croatia (7) and Iceland (4).

EU:

As of 3 April 2020, 441 969 cases have been reported in the EU: Italy (115 242), Spain (110 238), Germany (73 522), France (59 105), Belgium (15 348), Netherlands (14 697), Austria (11 129), Portugal (9 034), Sweden (5 466), Czechia (3 858), Ireland (3 849), Denmark (3 386), Poland (2 946), Romania (2 738), Luxembourg (2 487), Finland (1 518), Greece (1 514), Croatia (1 011), Slovenia (897), Estonia (858), Lithuania (649), Hungary (585), Latvia (458), Bulgaria (457), Slovakia (426), Cyprus (356) and Malta (195).

As of 3 April 2020, 32 895 deaths have been reported in the EU: Italy (13 917), Spain (10 003), France (4 503), Netherlands (1 339), Belgium (1 011), Germany (872), Sweden (282), Portugal (209), Austria (158), Denmark (123), Ireland (98), Romania (94), Poland (57), Greece (53), Czechia (44), Luxembourg (30), Hungary (21), Finland (19), Slovenia (16), Estonia (11), Bulgaria (10), Cyprus (9), Lithuania (9) and Croatia (7).

Major developments in the EU/EEA and the UK between 28 March and 3 April:

Several European countries, including [Austria](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Czechia](#), [Slovakia](#), and [Lithuania](#) have introduced measures mandating the wearing of medical masks in public, while Lithuania also recommends the wearing of protective gloves.

According to [media](#) reports, on 30 March 2020, the Danish Prime Minister announced that the government could begin a gradual and controlled reopening of Denmark after Easter, following initial evidence that current measures have resulted in a reported decrease in the incidence of COVID-19 and seasonal influenza.

Other major updates between 28 March and 3 April:

WHO: On 31 March 2020, WHO published a [medical product alert](#) (number 3/2020) regarding falsified medical products, including in vitro diagnostics, that claim to prevent, detect, treat or cure COVID-19. WHO has received reports regarding falsified in vitro diagnostics and laboratory reagents for the detection of SARS-CoV-2. WHO refers to its [emergency use listing](#) of diagnostics approved for clinical use by WHO and notes that, in the EU, regulatory compliance for SARS-CoV-2 diagnostics is self-declared by the manufacturer. WHO requests increased vigilance to prevent the distribution of falsified medical products (falsified medicines and vaccines), especially to hospitals, clinics, health centres, clinical laboratories, wholesalers, distributors, pharmacies and any other suppliers of medical products. WHO requests all national health authorities to immediately notify WHO if falsified products are discovered in their countries.

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC):

On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 constitutes a PHEIC.

On 11 March 2020, the Director-General of the [WHO](#) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic.

More details are available [here](#).

Sources: [Wuhan Municipal Health Commission](#) | [China CDC](#) | [WHO statement](#) | [WHO coronavirus website](#) | [ECDC 2019-nCoV website](#) | [RAGIDA](#) | [WHO](#)

ECDC assessment

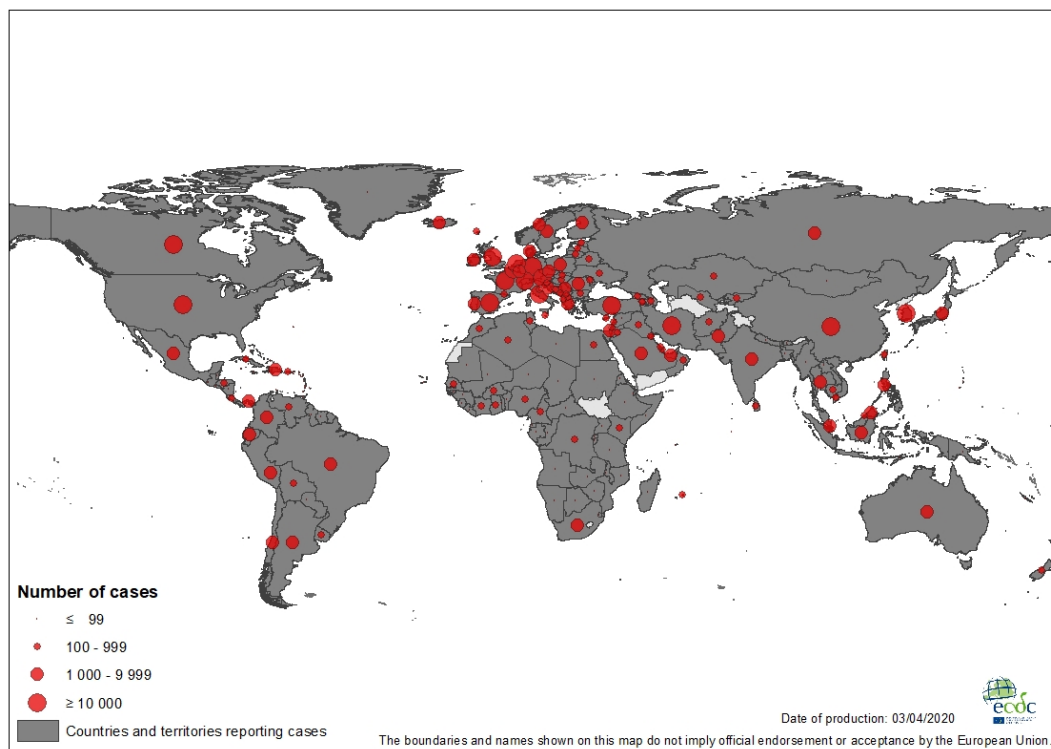
Information on the COVID-19 situation and a risk assessment can be found on the [ECDC website](#).

Actions

ECDC activities related to COVID-19 can be found on the ECDC [website](#).

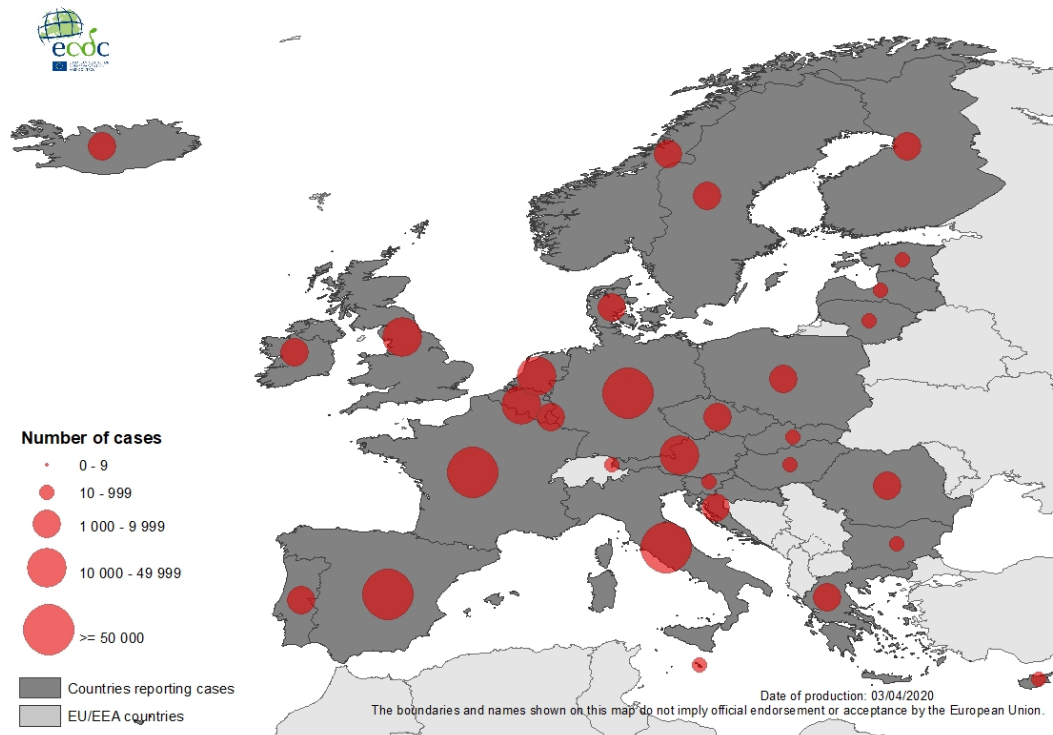
Geographical distribution of COVID-19 cases (in accordance with the applied case definition and testing strategy in the countries) worldwide, as of 3 April 2020

Source: ECDC



Geographical distribution of COVID-19 cases (in accordance with the applied case definition and testing strategy in the countries) in EU/EEA and the UK, as of 3 April 2020

Source: ECDC



Ebola virus disease - tenth outbreak - Democratic Republic of the Congo - 2018-2020

Opening date: 1 August 2018

Latest update: 3 April 2020

Epidemiological summary

Since the beginning of the outbreak and as of 31 March 2020, there have been 3 453 cases (3 310 confirmed, 143 probable) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), including 2 273 deaths, according to the Ministry of Health. The last confirmed case was reported in Beni. As of 31 March 2020, 171 healthcare workers have been infected.

In the DRC, 29 health zones in three provinces have reported probable and/or confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease: Mwenga in South Kivu Province, Alimbongo, Beni, Biena, Butembo, Goma, Kalunguta, Katwa, Kayna, Kyondo, Lubero, Mabalako, Manguredjipa, Masereka, Mutwanga, Musienene, Nyiragongo, Oicha, Pinga and Vuhovi Health Zones in North Kivu Province and Ariwara, Bunia, Mambasa, Nyankunde, Komanda, Lolwa, Mandima, Rwampara and Tchomia in Ituri Province.

In Uganda, one imported case (reported on 29 August 2019) died on 30 August 2019 in Kasese district, which borders North Kivu. However, as of today, there have been no reports of autochthonous transmission in Uganda.

Public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC): On 17 July 2019, WHO's Director-General [declared](#) the Ebola virus disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo a PHEIC. This declaration followed the fourth meeting of the IHR Emergency Committee for Ebola virus disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 17 July 2019. The declaration was made in response to the geographical spread observed in the previous weeks. It also expresses the need for a more intensified and coordinated response in order to end the outbreak. On 18 October 2019, and again on 12 February 2020, the Committee decided that the outbreak still constitutes a PHEIC.

Sources: [CMRE](#) | [Ebola dashboard Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) | [Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) | [WHO](#) | [WHO Regional Office for Africa](#)

ECDC assessment

Implementing response measures remains challenging in the affected areas because of the prolonged humanitarian crisis, the unstable security situation, and resistance in several population groups. At the current stage of the epidemic, with no confirmed

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cases in recent weeks, a high level of surveillance remains essential to detect and interrupt further transmission early on, including transmission events that may arise from exposure to survivor's infected bodily fluids. The overall risk to the EU/EEA remains very low.

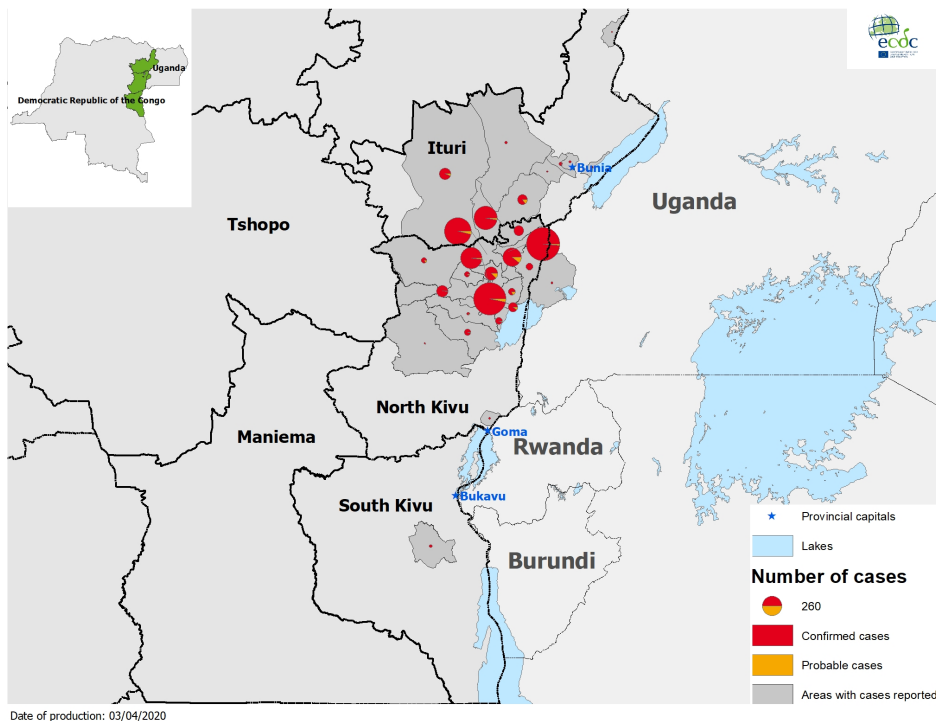
WHO assessment: As of 2 April, the last [WHO assessment](#) concluded that the national and regional risk levels remain high, while global risk levels remain low.

Actions

ECDC published an [epidemiological update](#) on 13 June 2019 and updated its [rapid risk assessment](#) on 7 August 2019.

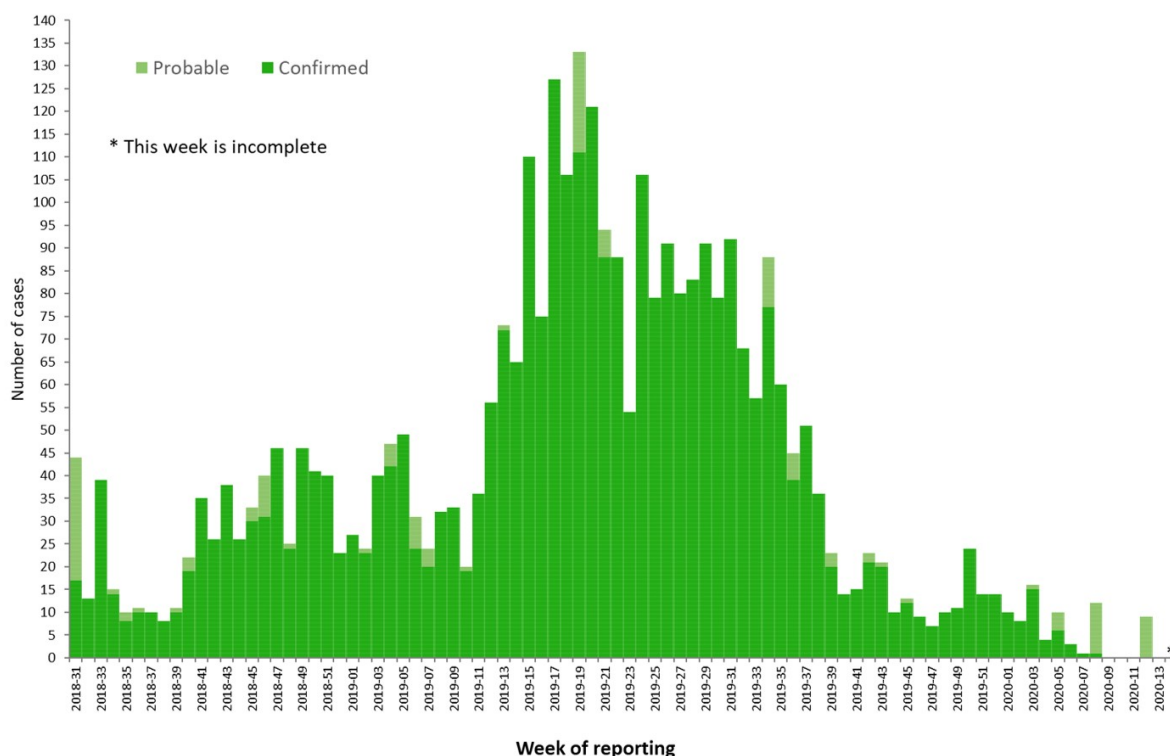
Geographical distribution of confirmed and probable cases of Ebola virus disease, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, as of 31 March 2020

Source: ECDC



Distribution of confirmed and probable cases of Ebola virus disease by week of reporting, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, as of 31 March 2020

Source: ECDC



Ebola Virus Disease case distribution in DRC and Uganda, as of 31 March 2020

Source: ECDC

	Number of confirmed cases	Number of probable cases	Confirmed and probable cases	Number of deaths
Democratic Republic of the Congo	3310	143	3453	2264
North-Kivu Province	2796	117	2913	1988
Alimbongo	5	1	6	3
Beni	721	9	730	474
Biema	19	2	21	14
Butembo	295	7	302	360
Goma	1	0	1	1
Kalunguta	198	23	221	90
Katwa	653	24	677	496
Kayna	28	1	29	9
Kyondo	25	6	31	19
Lubero	31	2	33	6
Mabalako	463	18	481	352
Manguredjipa	18	3	21	13
Masereka	50	6	56	23
Musienene	85	1	86	34
Mutwanga	32	0	32	12
Nyiragongo	3	0	3	1
Oicha	65	0	65	30
Pinga	1	0	1	0
Vuhovi	103	14	117	51
Ituri province	508	26	534	273
Ariwara	1	0	1	1
Bunia	4	0	4	4
Komanda	56	10	66	54
Lolwa	6	0	6	1
Mambasa	82	5	87	31
Mandima	347	10	357	176
Nyakunde	2	0	2	1
Rwampara	8	1	9	3
Tchomia	2	0	2	2
South-Kivu	6	0	6	3
Mwenga	6	0	6	3
Uganda	1	0	1	1
Kasese province	1	0	1	1
Kasese	1	0	1	1
Cumulative Total	3311	143	3454	2265

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