
2 October 2014

Dear Friends,

We are sure that you, like us, have been tracking the news of Ebola in West Africa. There are many news reports that cause fear of the disease spreading. There are also many that downplay the threat of the disease. At this point, it's difficult to predict how far the disease will spread. Our hope is that the health interventions under way will keep the disease from spreading further.

From Firelight's work with communities facing HIV in the early days of the pandemic, we have learned that community-based organizations are often at the front lines of providing support and care to affected families, while preventing the spread of disease. Therefore, we thought it might be useful to provide some fact and links about Ebola in this newsflash.

While Ebola may never reach your community, many of the methods outlined below would be useful to contain the spread of any infectious disease.

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Fact Sheet) Facts about Ebola - WHO

(Manual) Manual for Infection Control for Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers in the African Health Care Setting

(Resource) Info Graphics on Ebola - CDC

(Accepting Applications) ONE Africa Award 2014

(Fact Sheet) Facts about Ebola - WHO

The World Health Organization has created a fact sheet on Ebola. Key facts include:

- Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a severe, often fatal illness in humans.
- The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission.
- The average EVD case fatality rate is around 50%. Case fatality rates have varied from 25% to 90% in past outbreaks.

- The first EVD outbreaks occurred in remote villages in Central Africa, near tropical rainforests, but the most recent outbreak in west Africa has involved major urban as well as rural areas.
- Community engagement is key to successfully controlling outbreaks. Good outbreak control relies on applying a package of interventions, namely case management, surveillance and contact tracing, a good laboratory service, safe burials and social mobilisation.
- Early supportive care with rehydration, symptomatic treatment improves survival. There is as yet no licensed treatment proven to neutralise the virus but a range of blood, immunological and drug therapies are under development.
- There are currently no licensed Ebola vaccines but 2 potential candidates are undergoing evaluation.

To read more, visit the WHO fact sheet here: <http://bit.ly/1ruKCL6>

They also have Frequently Asked Questions on their website: <http://bit.ly/Y4jNB4>

(Manual) Manual for Infection Control for Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers in the African Health Care Setting

In 1995, an outbreak of Ebola hemorrhagic fever (Ebola HF) affected more than 300 people in and around the city of Kikwit, Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly, Zaire); approximately 80% of the patients died. More than one-fourth of all the patients were health care workers. After the outbreak, the DRC Ministry of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) developed practical recommendations for carrying out viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) isolation precautions in rural health facilities in Africa. These recommendations have been consolidated in a manual for the local health community.

This manual, prepared collaboratively by CDC and WHO, attempts to address the issues of early provisional diagnosis and response within a limited infrastructure. It is designed for the following uses:

- for prevention through preparedness--to help African health facilities make advance preparations for responding with appropriate precautions when a VHF case is suspected.
- for planning and conducting in-service training to strengthen standard precautions and VHF isolation precautions.
- as a rapid reference when a VHF case appears at a health facility where no previous VHF preparations have been made.

The recommendations in the manual make use of common, low-cost supplies, such as household bleach, water, cotton cloth, and plastic sheeting. Step-by-step instructions for implementing the recommendations are presented along with instructional aids for easy reference in health centers.

The manual is available in English, French, and Portuguese.

You can download the manual here: <http://1.usa.gov/1sY7dvN>

(Resource) Info Graphics on Ebola

We have found several “info graphics” on Ebola. Info graphics break down facts and information into “bite size” graphics that are easy to understand and remember. Here are two info graphics from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As a warning - these are high-resolution images, so might take some time to load on slow internet connections.

West Africa Ebola Outbreak: <http://1.usa.gov/1rkpbKW> (389 KB)

Stopping the Ebola Outbreak: <http://1.usa.gov/1rkpd5F> (143 KB)

(Accepting Applications) ONE Africa Award 2014

Does your organization work to advance the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa? Can its results be an example of what the Post 2015 MDGs should achieve at scale? If answers to both questions are yes, then the ONE Award is looking for you.

ONE Africa is pleased to invite applications for the ONE Africa Award 2014. The award celebrates concrete African efforts to drive towards the achievement of the MDGs the world’s blueprint for a better future, ranging from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education.

The ONE Africa Award 2014 will recognize Africa-driven; Africa led advocacy efforts that have demonstrated success at community, national or regional level. The ONE Africa Award aims to recognize, reward, and advance the exceptional work of organizations, founded by Africans and based in Africa, dedicated to helping Africa achieve the MDGs. The \$100,000 award will bring recognition to innovative African efforts to fight poverty and will incentivize more of such efforts.

Who qualifies?

Civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations and other groups based in Africa that can demonstrate commitment and success in advocacy to promote the

attainment of one or more of the MDGs are invited to apply.

Deadline extended to 3rd October 2014. Application materials are available here: <http://bit.ly/1oi1XSi>

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Capacity Building Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website:

<http://www.firelightfoundation.org/resources/newsflash>

We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org

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