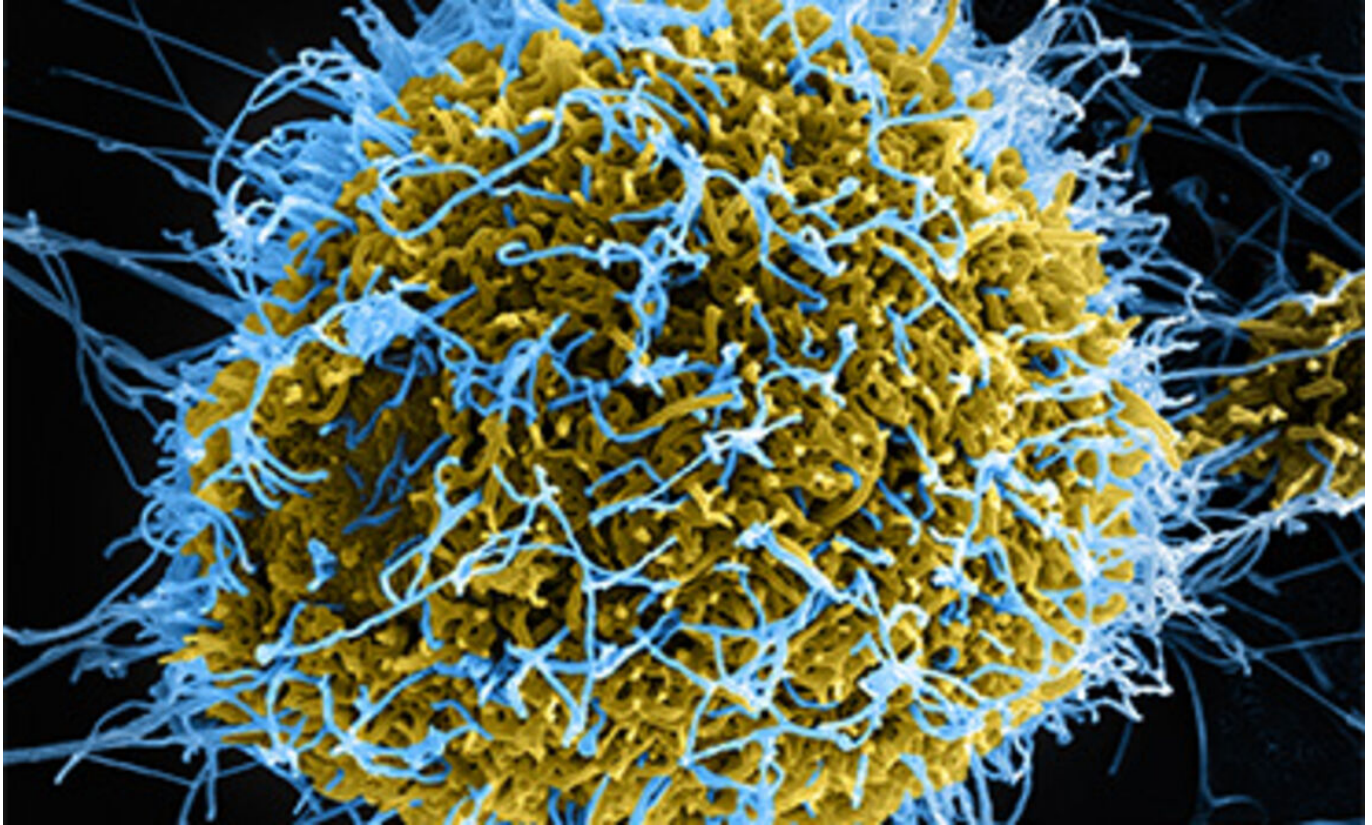


New outbreak of Ebola virus disease detected in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)



News of this outbreak was first announced by the region's governor, Bobo Boloko Bolumbu, on local radio and confirmed later that day by the DRC's Minister of Health and [WHO's Director General](#). Response measures have been set in motion, including the testing of samples and contact tracing, with additional staff being deployed to Mbandaka on 2 June 2020.

Between May and July 2018, the [ninth Ebola outbreak](#) in the DRC took place in the same area, in and around the city of Mbandaka, leading to a total of 54 cases including 33 deaths. According to WHO, the current event seems to be separate from the [tenth Ebola outbreak](#) which has been in its final stages in the eastern part of the country almost a thousand kilometres away, with 3 463 reported cases including 2 280 deaths so far. Sequencing is ongoing to confirm this outbreak as a separate event. If confirmed, this would be the DRC's [eleventh outbreak](#) of Ebola virus disease since 1976 when it was first discovered.

In addition to Ebola, the country is currently battling other major outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic (3 195 cases including 72 deaths) and a measles outbreak (369 520 cases including 6 779 deaths). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the country has been on lockdown since mid-March 2020, with the closure of all borders for non-essential traffic and a ban on all trips between the capital and the country's 25 provinces.

ECDC assessment

Ebola outbreaks in the DRC are not unexpected as the virus is present in an animal reservoir in many parts of the country. Implementing response measures is crucial and a high level of surveillance is essential to detect and interrupt further transmission early. Response measures may prove to be challenging, given the other outbreaks ongoing in the country. The overall risk to the EU/EEA is very low, especially with the current limitation on travel.