
RW COVID-19 page: [Find latest updates on global humanitarian responses](#)

Côte d'Ivoire + 1 more

Cote d'Ivoire starts Ebola vaccination of frontline workers

News and Press Release

Source: [WHO](#)

Posted: 17 Aug 2021

Originally published: 17 Aug 2021

Abidjan/Brazzaville, 17 August 2021 – Cote d'Ivoire has launched Ebola vaccination of high-risk populations, including health workers and first responders in Abidjan, where an Ebola outbreak was declared on 14 August.

The country was able to swiftly begin the vaccination on 16 August with the rVSV-ZEBOV Ebola vaccine manufactured by Merck as the vaccine doses that the World Health Organization (WHO) helped secure to fight a four-month long outbreak in Guinea were sent quickly by Guinea to Cote d'Ivoire.

The vaccine deployment from Guinea included 2,000 doses from Merck that are being used under the “ring strategy” where people who have come into contact with a confirmed Ebola patient are given the vaccine, as well as first responders and health workers. In addition, Guinea sent around 3,000 vaccine doses manufactured by Johnson & Johnson which are to be used to boost the vaccination in areas not experiencing active transmission.

Guinea has also deployed five vaccination experts and provided monoclonal antibody treatments to Cote d'Ivoire, which declared an outbreak after confirming the Ebola virus in a patient who travelled to Abidjan by road from Guinea. The patient is currently receiving treatment at a hospital in Abidjan. Effective early treatment, which currently exists, and supportive care can significantly improve chances of surviving Ebola.

“The Ebola vaccine is a critical tool in the fight against the virus and so it’s a top priority to move rapidly and start protecting people at high risk of the disease,” said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. “The speed with which Cote d’Ivoire has ramped up vaccination is remarkable and shows that with effective sub-regional solidarity we can quickly take measures to extinguish lethal infections that can potentially flare up into large outbreaks.”

In addition to the confirmed case, one suspected case and nine contacts have been identified and are being monitored. No deaths have been reported. There is no indication yet that the current outbreak in Cote d’Ivoire is linked with the one that was in Guinea. Further analysis and genomic sequencing will help determine any connection.

To support Cote d’Ivoire’s efforts to control the outbreak, the first since 1994, WHO is deploying experts to join their country-based counterparts to help ramp up infection prevention and control, diagnostics, contact tracing, treatment, community mobilization and cross-border surveillance. The Organization is also assessing whether additional vaccines will be needed to curb the disease.

In Guinea, the health authorities are stepping up surveillance, carrying out further investigations, identifying contacts in readiness for vaccination and readying an Ebola treatment centre.

Since the Ebola outbreak was declared in Guinea earlier this year, WHO has been supporting six countries, including Cote d’Ivoire, to prepare for a potential outbreak. This included support in disease surveillance, screenings at border crossing points and in high-risk communities as well as setting up rapid response teams, improving testing and treatment capacity and reinforcing community outreach and collaboration.

The outbreak in Cote d’Ivoire is the third this year after the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Guinea.

Media contacts:

Souleymane Kone

Health Promotion and Communication Officer

WHO Cote d’Ivoire

Tel: +225 07 14 83 93

koneso@who.int

Collins Boakye-Agyemang

Communications Officer

WHO Regional Office for Africa

boakyeagyemangc@who.int

Tel: + 242 06 520 65 65

Meenakshi Dalal

Communications Consultant

dalalm@who.int

Tel: + 1 682 812 2306 (WhatsApp)

Saya Oka

Communications Manager

WHO Regional Office for Africa

okas@who.int

Tel: +242 065 081 009

Primary country:

[Côte d'Ivoire](#)

Other country:

[Guinea](#)

Source:

[World Health Organization](#)

Format:

[News and Press Release](#)

Theme:

[Health](#)

Disaster type:

[Epidemic](#)

Language:

English

Related Content

Guinea + 1 more **Viral Hemorrhagic Fever - two ongoing health emergencies in the West Africa region (DG ECHO, Health authorities, WHO) (ECHO Daily Flash of 17 August 2021)**

News and Press Release **Source:** [ECHO](#) **Posted:** 17 Aug 2021

Originally published: 17 Aug 2021

Côte d'Ivoire **La Côte d'Ivoire déclare la première épidémie d'Ebola depuis plus de 25 ans**

News and Press Release **Source:** [WHO](#) **Posted:** 16 Aug 2021 **Originally published:** 14 Aug 2021

Côte d'Ivoire **Cote d'Ivoire declares first Ebola outbreak in more than 25 years**

News and Press Release **Source:** [WHO](#) **Posted:** 14 Aug 2021 **Originally published:** 14 Aug 2021

Guinea + 6 more **Multiple Countries | Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Outbreak: Preparedness and Response - Operations Update n° 3 (Appeal No: MDREBOLA21) - 11 August 2021**

Situation Report **Source:** [IFRC](#) **Posted:** 11 Aug 2021 **Originally published:** 11 Aug 2021

OCHA coordinates the global emergency response to save lives and protect people in humanitarian crises. We advocate for effective and principled humanitarian action by all, for all.

© 2021 all rights reserved.