

## **Ebola outbreak ends in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

WHO declared the end of a recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo last month. **The announcement came 42 days – two 21-day incubation cycles of the virus – after the last confirmed Ebola patient tested negative for the disease for the second time.** WHO said that enhanced surveillance for possible further Ebola cases will continue, while preparedness and readiness for further Ebola outbreaks will continue to be strengthened in the central African country.

“With the end of this epidemic, DRC has once again proved to the world that **we can control the very deadly Ebola virus if we respond early in a coordinated and efficient way,**” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO DirectorGeneral, who took office last month.

Four people died and four others survived the disease. Five of these eight cases were laboratory confirmed. A total of 583 people, who had been in contact with these eight people, were registered and closely monitored, but none developed signs or symptoms of the disease. The Ministry of Public Health in the Democratic Republic of the Congo notified WHO of a cluster of illnesses and deaths with haemorrhagic symptoms in people living in the Likati Health Zone in May, from whom one blood sample tested positive for Ebola.

Likati is a remote area on the border of the Central African Republic. Cases of the disease were reported in four health districts. It was the eighth Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since the virus was first identified in the country in 1976.

The outbreak was quelled thanks to the **timely alert by local authorities of suspected cases, the prompt testing of blood samples due to strengthened national laboratory capacity and the early announcement of the outbreak by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.** The WHO Health Emergencies Programme helped coordinate outbreak control efforts on the ground and set up incident management system within 24 hours of the outbreak being announced.

[http://www.who.int/emergencies/ ebola-DRC-2017](http://www.who.int/emergencies/ebola-DRC-2017)