On 20 November 2015, the Government of Liberia confirmed three* new cases of EVD in Liberia. All three are from the same family, from a suburb of the capital Monrovia.

A ten year old boy was confirmed as having EVD on 19 November 2015. Two other family members were also confirmed as having EVD the subsequent day. All three are receiving treatment at an Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) in Monrovia.

Three others, also from the same family, are under observation at the ETU. A further six households with over 64 persons are also under observation in the community.

There are no currently known transmission risks associated with the boy (no currently known contact with a survivor or a sick person, someone who has recently travelled to Guinea or Sierra Leone, or attended a burial). The Government, with the support of partners, is conducting investigations to ascertain the source of the infection.

Contacts listing and tracing is ongoing.

UNICEF RESPONSE

Coordination

UNICEF has a team of sector specialists and pillar co-leads from Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Communications for Development (C4D), Child Protection and Education working with Government counterparts to conduct assessments and support the response. The UNICEF team is being coordinated by an Emergency Specialist, who coordinates UNICEF’s response with Government and partners, and ensures all efforts are aligned with the national response strategy.

UNICEF has provided a tent and related equipment to set up a local Ebola Command Center near the community.

Communications for Development

The Ministry of Health and UNICEF have coordinated a C4D forum to develop the response strategy, which will focus on not creating panic, but raising awareness, re-establishment of IPC protocols in communities, and engagement with community and religious leaders. A refresher training for community health volunteers will be held on Sunday 22 November. UNICEF will provide all Information, education and communication material.

UNICEF is working with Government and partner counterparts on refocusing messaging, and strengthening ongoing social mobilization by deploying a team of UNICEF personnel, including County Mobilization Coordinators, District Mobilization Coordinators as well as engaging 300 general community health volunteers to help raise awareness on how the community can protect themselves and prevent the spread of Ebola; immediately reporting cases, contacts, or dead bodies; dead body management, including swabbing; safe and dignified burial of bodies.

Social mobilization efforts will focus on a ‘ring strategy’ where similar efforts to raise awareness will be undertaken in communities surrounding the area in which the family resided.

The number of infection prevention and control (IPC), as well as dead body management messages on radio have also been increased.

Note: even prior to the new case being detected, sustained messaging has been continuing throughout, including on dead body management, IPC and Ebola prevention.

Child Protection

UNICEF is mobilizing social workers and psychosocial support (PSS) workers to provide the affected family and community with support to reduce fear and anxiety, and promote healthy coping.

Pre-positioning discharge kits for survivors (with partners) for when it is needed.

UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to register all children under observation, and considered EVD affected, and provide services as required.

Footnote: Data based on official information reported by Liberia’s Ministry of Health.
**Water Sanitation and Hygiene, and Education**

- UNICEF is coordinating with the County Education Officer and District Education Officer on assessment and response efforts.
- On the request of the County Health Team, replenished infection prevention and control (IPC) material at the school in which the boy was registered, to enable them to continue IPC protocols, including handwashing. The items included soap, chlorine, buckets and gloves. UNICEF also set up temporary handwashing stations.
- UNICEF is coordinating refresher training on psychosocial support to parent-teacher association (PTA) members, which will take place on Monday 23 November.
- **Note:** While it is still unclear if the child had attended school while he was ill, as a precautionary measure, the school will be decontaminated by a partner. Temperature checks will be in place from Monday, when the school reopens.

**Innovation**

- UNICEF reactivated the Trace and Go mobile based system for relatives to be updated regularly on the condition of those in ETUs.

**Nutrition**

- UNICEF has ensured that therapeutic food (BP100 biscuits) that were provided previously are available at the ETU for the admitted patients.

---

**Who to contact for further information:**

- Sheldon Yett  
  Representative  
  UNICEF Liberia  
  Cell: +231-770-26-7100  
  Email: syett@unicef.org

- Deirdre Kiernan  
  Sr. Emergency Coordinator  
  UNICEF Liberia  
  Cell: +231-770-26-7926  
  Email: dkiernan@unicef.org