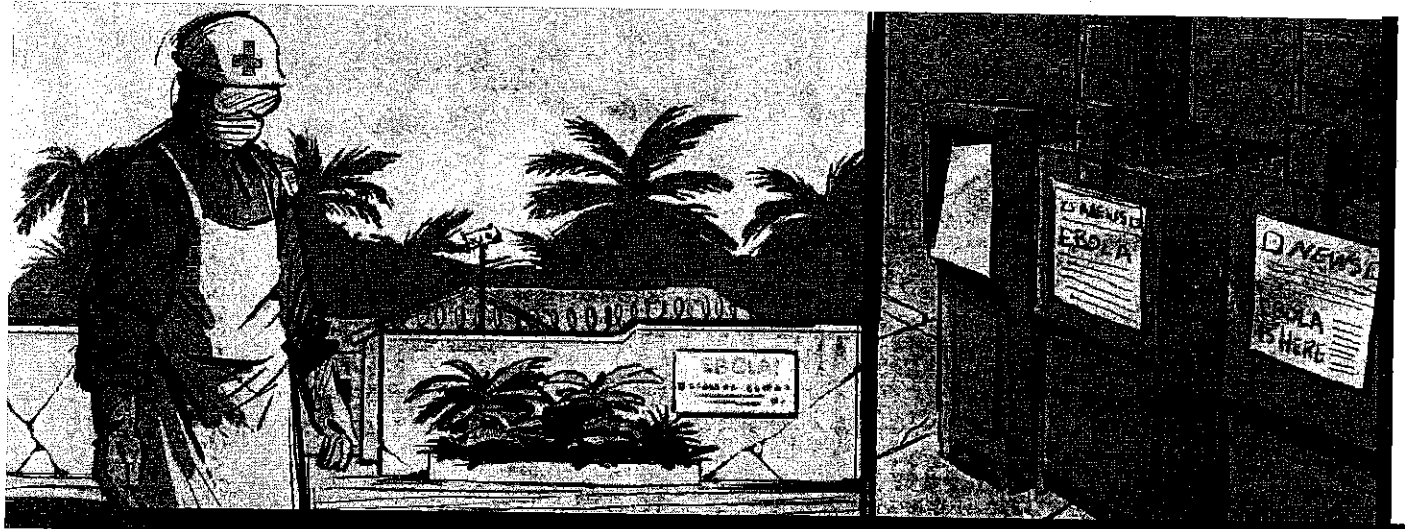




INTERNATIONAL

EBOLA: UPDATE ON AN EPIDEMIC



The current outbreak of Ebola started in West Africa in March, 2014. By late November, more than 15,000 people had been infected by this deadly virus. Of these, 5,400 had died.

This tragic disease causes fever, vomiting, diarrhea, bleeding and other symptoms. There is no cure.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AND QUARANTINES

Afraid that Ebola could spread outside of West Africa, several countries have closed their borders to travellers from hard-hit nations. As well, because Ebola incubates over a one-to three-week period, some countries are **quarantining** healthcare workers who have treated people in West Africa

when they return home. Other governments have set up medical check-ups in airports for people arriving from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. That's where nearly all of the cases have appeared.

On October 31, the Canadian government announced that it, too, was temporarily suspending **visas** for people who live in these countries. As well, travellers from West Africa who are considered high risk must isolate themselves at home for a 21-day period or face quarantine in a medical facility.

HARD TO CATCH

These restrictions trouble many people who understand the science of Ebola. They point out that the disease is

WHY AFRICA HAS BEEN HIT HARDEST

Why has Ebola cut such a terrible swath through parts of West Africa? For one thing, people in the region often distrust foreign doctors, so they sometimes avoid seeking treatment. In other instances, a ritual has helped it spread. West African mourners wash and embrace their dead before burial, increasing their exposure to the disease.

As well, these countries have poor health care with too few medical professionals. In many cases, even clean gloves and water are not available.

not transmitted through the air. That means it is not highly communicable. Only those who come into very close contact

DEFINITIONS

INCUBATES: an infectious disease that is developing before symptoms appear

QUARANTINING: placing under strict isolation to prevent the spread of disease

SWATH: a line or route along which something travels or moves
VISAS: official authorizations on passports permitting entry into and travel within a particular country or region



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with the infected blood, urine, sweat, saliva or feces of sufferers can catch the virus. And only those with active symptoms are contagious.

CAUSING MORE HARM

The World Health Organization (WHO) sharply criticized Canada in particular for its restrictions. It stated that such measures spread fear, damage weak economies and disrupt the food transport system. Already, more than 200,000 people have problems getting food because of the Ebola crisis.

“Discriminating against these entire countries, and groups of people, that really need our help more than ever and need our support and our compassion more than ever, is quite shameful,” said Kaci Hickox. She is an American nurse who defied quarantine orders in the U.S. after helping Ebola patients in Sierra Leone.

ON THE DECREASE

Notably, Ebola has not made headway outside of Africa. There have been no reported instances in Canada. In fact, by late November, just 20 cases had been identified elsewhere in the world. Of these, 13 sufferers recovered. Five died,

HOW CANADA LEADS IN EBOLA RESEARCH

Ebola outbreaks occur halfway around the globe, yet Canada is a world leader in Ebola research. Our country has developed a promising new vaccine called VSV-EBOV. Health officials hope that by early December, the vaccine will be found safe enough to give to 250 healthcare workers on the front lines of the crisis. Our nation is also developing a potential Ebola cure, called ZMapp, made from tobacco plants.

The two approaches to defeating Ebola are the result of years of research conducted at the Public Health Agency of Canada’s National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg.

The federal government opened this facility in 1992. The complex has a Level 4 lab. That’s the high containment space needed to work on the world’s most dangerous pathogens.

and two were still in treatment. The majority were healthcare workers or missionaries who returned home ill.

Even in West Africa, there are signs that this terrible affliction is closer to being brought under control. The United Nations reported fewer new cases of Ebola the week of November 4 than in any week of the previous three months. There is also a slowdown of new cases in Liberia, the worst-affected country.

“It appears the downward trend is real,” said a spokesperson from WHO.

STOPPING THE DISEASE

That’s why it’s important to lift travel bans, say officials.

“When countries are isolated, it is harder to get medical supplies and personnel deployed to stop the spread of Ebola,” said Tom Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the U.S. “Even when governments restrict travel and trade, people in affected countries still find a way to move and it is even harder to track them systematically.

“To keep people in non-affected countries safe, we must continue to work to support efforts to stop the spread of Ebola in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.” ★

DEFINITIONS

AFFLICTION: something that causes pain or suffering

PATHOGENS: disease-producing agents (especially viruses, bacteria or other microorganisms)

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO): a United Nations agency concerned with international public health



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ON THE LINES

Answer the following in complete sentences:

1. Describe the symptoms of people infected with the Ebola virus.

2. How does Ebola spread from person to person?

3. Where and when did the most recent outbreak start?

4. List the three African countries most affected by the recent Ebola outbreak.

5. How many people have been affected?

6. List at least two reasons why Ebola has spread so quickly.

7. What two measures did Canada introduce to stop Ebola?

8. Describe how other countries have reacted to try to prevent Ebola from spreading.

MAP MAP ASSIGNMENT

Complete this map assignment to better understand the article *Ebola: Update on an Epidemic*.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Obtain the required resources and read all the instructions before starting.
2. Colour your map after all labelling is completed.
3. Print in pencil only first, then go over the printing in black ink. (5)
4. Work carefully and neatly. (5)

Resources Required: pencil, black pen, pencil crayons, ruler, eraser and an atlas.

Part A Locate and label the following countries in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated: (10)

Mauritania (green)	Mali (orange)
Guinea (purple)	Sierra Leone (brown)
Liberia (red)	Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire) (green)
Burkina Faso (brown)	Ghana (yellow)
Niger (purple)	Nigeria (pink)

Part C Locate and label the following territory and countries in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated: (8)

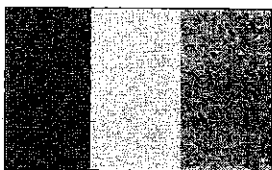
Algeria (brown)	Western Sahara [Morocco] (yellow)
Senegal (pink)	Gambia (yellow)
Guinea-Bissau (orange)	Togo (red)
Benin (orange)	Cameroon (green)

Part D Locate and label the following bodies of salt water and shade all ocean water dark blue: (2)

Atlantic Ocean	Gulf of Guinea
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Part G Colour all other remaining territory grey. (2)

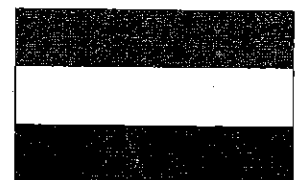
Part H Complete your map with a frame, title and compass bearing. ★ (3)



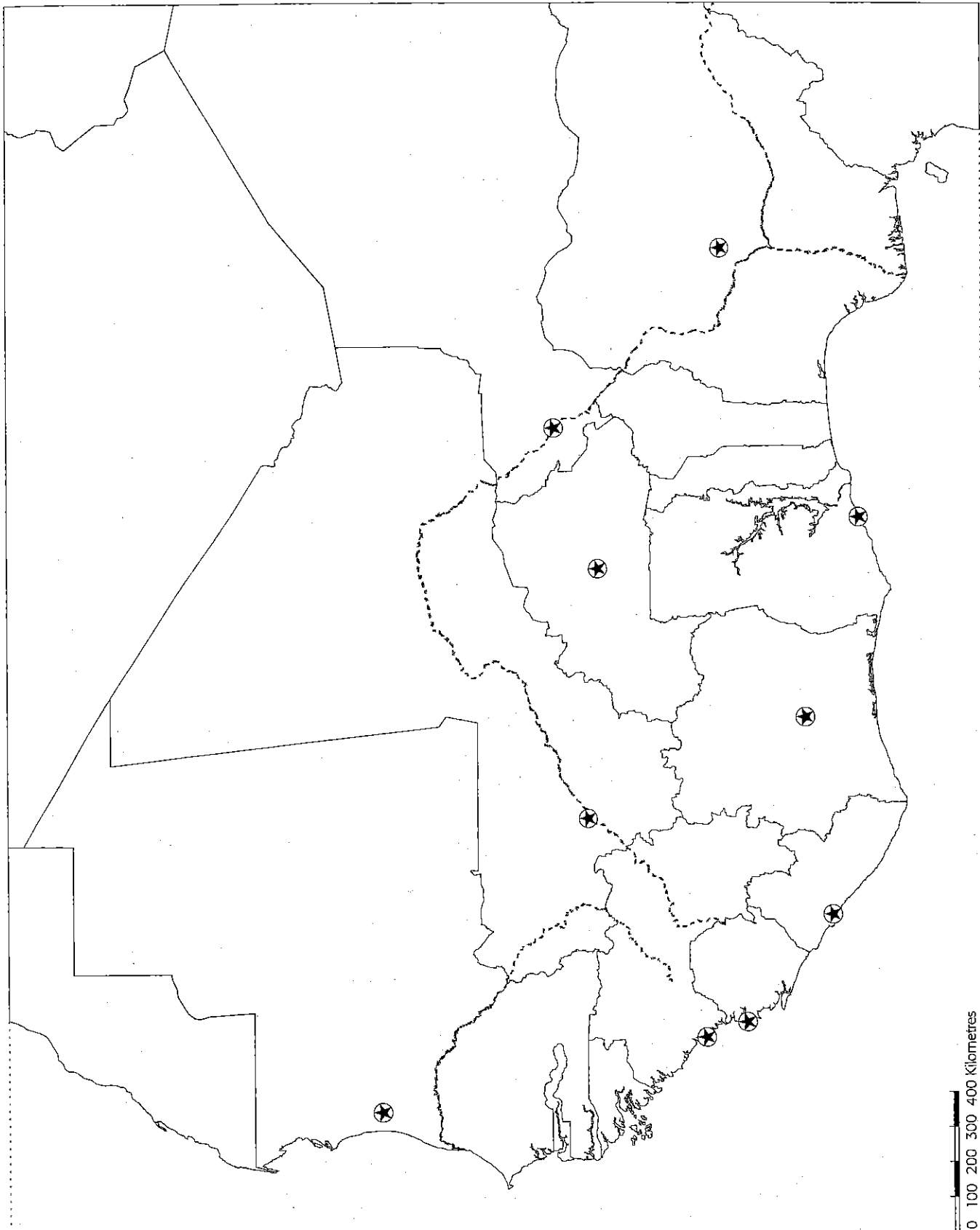
Guinea



Liberia



Sierra Leone



0 100 200 300 400 Kilometres