

# Current efforts in fighting Ebola

# Who made the video ?

## Sky news

- A British free-to-air television news channel, live-stream news network, and news organisation.
- Distributed via an English-language radio news service and through online channels (Sky NEWS HD).



# Geographical context

**West Africa:**

**Guinea → place where the epidemic is said to have started.**

**Sierra Leone → heavily affected; Freetown is mentioned in particular.**

**Liberia → where the epidemic spread and international intervention occurred.**

**Nigeria and Senegal → cross-border spread.**

**2014 Ebola outbreak**



# Main concepts/topics

- 1- Disease spread dynamics
- 2- Action plan: surveillance and disease control
- 3- Social impacts of epidemics
- 4- International cooperation

# Disease spread dynamics

→ The study of how a disease spreads in a population over time: how fast it spreads, how many people are infected, and how the spread changes.

Example of the spread dynamics of the Ebola epidemic in 2014

- "Four hundred by the beginning of June, eight hundred by July, sixteen hundred by August, and now five thousand".

Related concepts: transmission rate, exponential growth, transmission chain, population density, spatial spread of a disease.

# **Action plan: surveillance and disease control**

**→ All the measures put in place to track the progress of an epidemic and limit its spread, for example:**

- Identify and isolate sick people**
- Identify and track contacts to limit the spread and quickly detect new cases**
- Limit travel with a lockdown**
- Train medical staff and build new treatment centers**

# **Social impacts of epidemics**

→ **All the consequences of an epidemic on daily life and society, beyond the effects directly related to the disease.**

- **Fear and panic among the population**
- **Lockdown of residents**
- **Difficulties accessing food, water, and medicine**
- **Overcrowding in hospitals**
- **Economic and political consequences for the affected countries.**

# International cooperation

→ When several countries and organizations work together to fight a disease that crosses borders. Involves many players: WHO, researchers, doctors, governments, military, and labs.

- Provide equipment, medical tools, and health and test kits....
- Can form and train health workers and send them.
- Can send military personnel
- Develop and test treatments

Example of the acceleration of the development of an Ebola vaccine

→ Normally, vaccine trials last from 6 to 12 months, but in this case, it lasted 1 month

# General vocabulary

**Disclaimer:** You might already know the vocabulary, the goal is for everyone to be able to understand

- ✦ **Gruesome:** causing repulsion or horror; grisly.
- **Spooky:** sinister or ghostly in a way that causes fear and unease.



- ✦ **Selfless:** concerned more with the needs and wishes of others than with one's own; unselfish.
- **Crowded area:** a location filled with a large number of people.
- ✦ **Dismay:** a feeling of unhappiness and disappointment.

# Specific vocabulary for epidemiology

✦ • **Outbreak:** a sudden occurrence of something unwelcome, such as war or disease (the ebola outbreak).

• **Falling ill:** the process by which a person become sick or unwell.



✦ • **Sweeping = spreading**

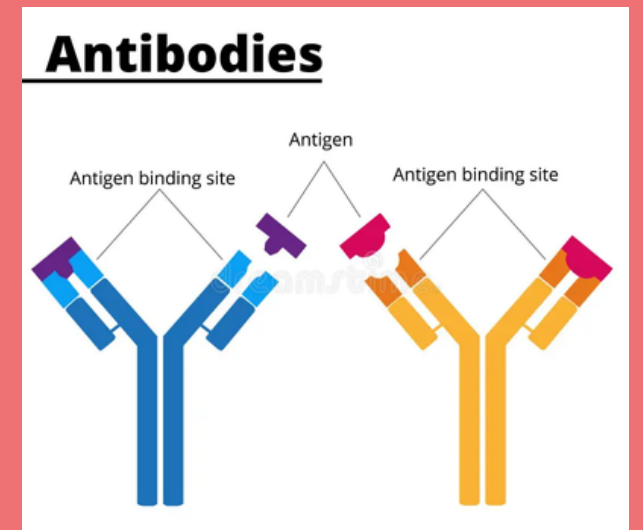
✦ • **Screened:** test (a person or substance) for the presence or absence of a disease.

• **Aid worker = humanitarian worker**



# Additional vocabulary

- ✦ • **Lockdown:** a state or period in which movement within or access to an area is restricted in the interests of public safety or health.
- **Cluster:** a group of human, plant, object that share a common point.
- **Survival odds:** the percentage of surviving a disease.
- **Fast-tracked = accelerated**
- ✦ • **Trials:** the terms refers to a test or examination of a person or thing (like vaccin or drug in the medical field) to determine its validity or effectiveness. (Often used in legal contexts to describe a formal procedure)





# It's time to watch the video

<https://youtu.be/24MgktJKyc0?si=9cZzIGkhsFkfZxVT>

(start from 0:37, skip from 5:19 to 6:44, stop at 9:48) (7:46 min)

# Ebola: Test Your Knowledge

Ecology Keys – English module · Activities

# Activity 1 — True or False?

*Hand up = TRUE · Hand down = FALSE*

1. The first known Ebola outbreak was in 1976.
2. Ebola has only affected Guinea.
3. Patient zero may have been a two-year-old boy.
4. The lockdown in Freetown lasted one week.
5. Mapp is grown in tobacco plants.
6. The vaccine is ready to use now.

# Activity 1 — Answers

1. **TRUE** — First outbreak in Zaire, 1976
2. **FALSE** — Also Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Senegal
3. **TRUE** — In rural Guinea, around December
4. **FALSE** — It lasts three days
5. **TRUE** — Genetically modified tobacco plants
6. **FALSE** — Not before early next year

# Activity 2 — Find the word

*Read each definition and write the word. 5 minutes, in pairs.*

1. A sudden start of a disease in a place

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2. To move from one person or place to another

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3. Keeping people away from others to stop a disease

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4. Signs that show a person is sick (fever, bleeding)

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5. Finding everyone who was near a sick person

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6. A person who has recovered from a serious disease

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7. A medicine that protects you from a disease

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8. A doctor, nurse or other person who cares for the sick

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# Activity 2 — Answers

*Now use each word in a sentence!*

## 1. Outbreak

A sudden start of a disease in a place

## 2. Spread

To move from one person or place to another

## 3. Quarantine

Keeping people away from others to stop a disease

## 4. Symptoms

Signs that show a person is sick (fever, bleeding)

## 5. Contact tracing

Finding everyone who was near a sick person

## 6. Survivor

A person who has recovered from a serious disease

## 7. Vaccine

A medicine that protects you from a disease

## 8. Health worker

A doctor, nurse or other person who cares for the sick

# Activity 3 — Quote Match

*Who said it? Match each quote (1–4) with its speaker (A–D).*

1. *"If the outbreak is not stopped now, we could see hundreds of thousands of people infected."*

2. *"The bigger the outbreak, the harder it is to control."*

3. *"It is better to stay at home for 3 days than to lose thousands of people in one day."*

4. *"Ebola will not defeat us, never."*

**A. Peter Piot**

**B. The President of Liberia**

**C. President Obama**

**D. A Freetown resident**

# Quote Match — Answers & debrief

- 1 → C President Obama
- 2 → A Peter Piot
- 3 → D A Freetown resident
- 4 → B The President of Liberia

## Debrief — discuss in English

1. Which quote shows fear? Which one shows hope?
2. Who is the most worried about the future? Why?

# Activity 4 — Team Hangman

*Teams of 3 or 4 · 5 rounds*

# Activity 5 - Role-Play Debate

*Should the government impose a 3-day lockdown to stop Ebola?*

## **Gouvernement**

FOR: but families need food and clear information

## **Local Resident**

AGAINST: no income, no food, no water for the family.

## **Aid Worker**

FOR: it is necessary to find the sick and slow the virus.

## **Journalist**

NEUTRAL: asks questions to the other three groups.

# Debate — How it works

## 1. Prepare (10-15 min)

Write 3 arguments for your role.

## 2. Debate (10-15 min)

Each group speaks for 2 minutes, then the others reply.

## 3. Vote

Lockdown: yes or no? Say why in one sentence.

### Useful phrases

I think that...

In my opinion...

I agree / I disagree because...

The problem is that...

What about...?

**Thanks for your attention, we hope  
you had a good time**