

## How the UK will increase efforts to combat outbreak and spread of deadly viruses

- UK sets out new plan to fight global health pandemics
- PM to tell G7 that the world must be far better prepared for the next Ebola-type virus
- More research and development, greater co-operation and a rapid response unit at centre of the UK strategy

The Prime Minister, David Cameron, will use the [G7](https://www.g7germany.de/Webs/G7/EN/Home_en/home_node.html) ([https://www.g7germany.de/Webs/G7/EN/Home\\_en/home\\_node.html](https://www.g7germany.de/Webs/G7/EN/Home_en/home_node.html)) summit in Germany to outline how the UK will step up its efforts to combat the outbreak and spread of deadly viruses with a new plan that will include more research and development and an improvement in how international health agencies respond on the ground.

In a stark warning to other G7 leaders the Prime Minister will say that the world must be far better prepared for future health pandemics that could be more aggressive and harder to contain than the recent Ebola outbreak.

More than 27,000 cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) have now been reported in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, with over 11,130 reported deaths, marking it as one of the worst pandemics in modern times.

Find out more about the [UK government's response to Ebola](https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/ebola-virus-government-response) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/ebola-virus-government-response>)

While the number of new cases has fallen drastically, experts have warned that lessons must be learnt from what happened. A more virulent disease in future – transmitted by coughing, like the flu or measles for example – would have a much more devastating impact if a better approach is not put in place.

Speaking ahead of the G7, the Prime Minister, David Cameron, said:

- “ The recent Ebola outbreak was a shocking reminder of the threat we all face from a disease outbreak.
- “ Despite the high number of deaths and devastation to the region, we got on the right side of it this time thanks to the tireless efforts of local and international health workers.
- “ But the reality is that we will face an outbreak like Ebola again and that virus could be more aggressive and more difficult to contain. It is time to wake up to that threat and I will be raising this issue at the G7.
- “ As a world we must be far better prepared with better research, more drug development and a faster and more comprehensive approach to how we fight these things when they hit.