

November 14, 2014 CDC Ebola Response Update

[Announcer] This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports early signs of progress in the effort to stop the spread of Ebola in Liberia, one of the West African countries hit hardest by the outbreak. However -- officials say this is not a time to let our guard down. Maintaining this progress is going to take a large international effort, and there's always the chance the virus can come roaring back. New reports show there has been a significant drop in cases in Lofa County, where the Liberian outbreak began, and in Montserrado County, home to the capital city of Monrovia and one-and-a-half million people.

Since mid-September new cases of Ebola have gone down dramatically in Montserrado County. And in Lofa County, which at the peak of the outbreak saw one hundred fifty-three new cases in one week, there were only four new cases at the beginning of November.

Several factors have contributed to the decrease in new cases. More Ebola treatment units, safe burial practices, community education programs and rigorous contact tracing all played a role. But, even though there are fewer cases in these counties, some people are still getting sick. And there are new clusters and outbreaks reported in remote parts of the country every day.

Experts say these trends prove the Ebola virus can be controlled – but comprehensive contact tracing and rapid containment of new outbreaks is essential to maintain this momentum – not only in Liberia but all of West Africa.

[Announcer] For the most accurate health information, visit www.cdc.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.