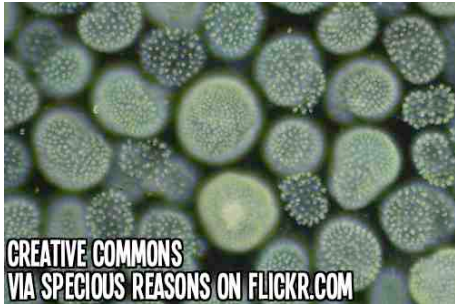## Ebola virus getting worse in Africa

4th July, 2014

The deadly virus Ebola is getting worse in Africa. More and more people are getting affected. So far, 763 people have the virus, and 468 of these have died. The United Nations said it is the biggest and deadliest Ebola outbreak the world has ever seen. Most of the deaths have been in Guinea. This is where the outbreak started. People have also died in neighbouring Liberia and Sierra Leone. Health ministers from African countries are getting increasingly worried about the outbreak. Ministers from 11 countries are meeting in Accra, the capital city of Ghana. They will talk about what they can do to control the situation. They want to stop more people from dying.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said "drastic" action was needed to stop the virus from spreading across Africa. WHO spokesman Daniel Epstein told reporters the organization was trying to get all countries to work together. He said if everyone helps, "we can get a grip and halt this outbreak". He said this was important because strong trading links between African countries means the virus could easily spread. He said: "We need a strong response, especially along the shared border areas where commercial and social activities continue between Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. That's unlikely to stop." Ebola kills up to 90 per cent of people who get infected. There is no vaccine or cure for it.

Sources: *BBC / Huffington Post / Business Insider.com*

Writing

When a virus starts, all travel in that area should stop. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

virus / affected / outbreak / neighbouring / worried / capital city / control / situation / drastic action / work together / get a grip / important / trading links / border / vaccine

True / False

a) So far, the Ebola virus has killed 763 people in Africa. T / F

b) The outbreak is the biggest Ebola outbreak the world has ever seen. T / F

c) The outbreak is currently spread across three countries. T / F

d) Ministers from all African countries will meet for talks in Ghana. T / F

e) The WHO said drastic action is needed to stop the outbreak spreading. T / F

f) The WHO said the situation could be controlled if everyone helps. T / F

g) The WHO said cross-border trading would stop during the outbreak. T / F

h) There is a vaccine for Ebola but it is very expensive. T / F

Synonym Match

1.	deadly	a.	serious
2	died	b.	more and more
3.	neighbouring	c.	reaction
4.	increasingly	d.	passed away
5.	stop	e.	stretching
6.	drastic	f.	lethal
7.	spreading	g.	remedy
8.	links	h.	prevent
9.	response	i.	ties
10.	cure	j.	next-door

Discussion – Student A

a) What "drastic" action could the WHO take?

b) Should other countries help to halt the spread of Ebola?

c) What is a virus?

d) Should the affected countries stop people travelling?

e) How scary is Ebola?

f) Have you seen any movies about viruses or outbreaks?

g) Do you think scientists can find a vaccine for Ebola?

h) What questions would you like to ask a virus expert?

Phrase Match

1. More and
2. Most of the deaths have
3. countries are getting increasingly
4. what they can do to
5. They want to stop more
6. stop the virus from
7. we can get a grip and halt
8. along the shared border
9. That's unlikely
10. There is no vaccine

a. spreading across Africa
b. control the situation
c. to stop
d. more people
e. areas
f. been in Guinea
g. or cure for it
h. people from dying
i. this outbreak
j. worried

Discussion – Student B

a) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'virus'?
b) What do you know about Ebola?
c) What have you seen about Ebola on the news?
d) What would you do if the virus was spreading in your country?
e) Do you feel safe from viruses where you live?
f) How much do you worry when you hear about a new virus?
g) Should there be more information about Ebola on TV?
h) What can countries do to stop Ebola from spreading?

Spelling

1. The aleddy Ebola virus is getting worse
2. More and more people are getting fftecdea
3. This is where the rekutboa started
4. countries are getting lcnesariying worried
5. in Accra, the tacplai city of Ghana
6. what they can do to control the utoansiit
7. isadtcr action was needed to stop the virus
8. WHO epsmnkosa Daniel Epstein
9. We need a strong rneossep
10. scoali activities
11. 90 per cent of people who get ecfndtie
12. There is no ciaecnv or cure for it

Role Play

Role A – Money
You think money is the best way to stop an outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): education, a travel ban or hygiene.

Role B – Education
You think education is the best way to stop an outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): money, a travel ban or hygiene.

Role C – Travel ban
You think a travel ban is the best way to stop an outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): education, money or hygiene.

Role D – Hygiene
You think hygiene is the best way to stop an outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): education, a travel ban or money.

Speaking – Worries

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put your biggest worries at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- outbreaks
- computer viruses
- war
- money

- terrorism
- the environment
- your looks
- your English

Answers – True False

a F	b T	c T	d F	e T	f T	g F	h F

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. h
6. a	7. e	8. i	9. c	10. g