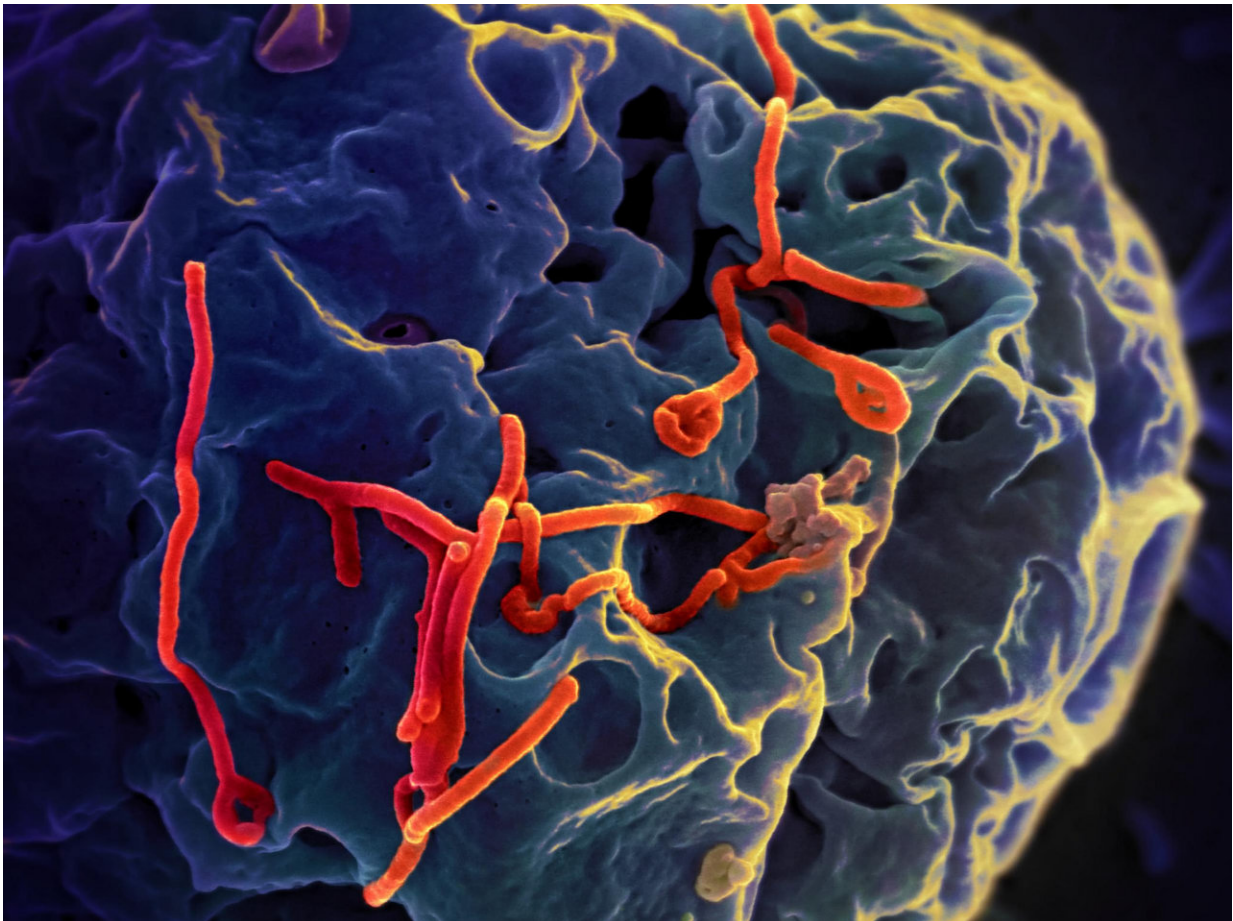


Ebola epidemic in DR Congo now exceeds 1,000 cases

March 25 2019



Ebola virus particles (red) on a larger cell. Credit: NIAID

The number of cases in a nearly eight-month-old epidemic of Ebola in

eastern DR Congo now exceeds 1,000, almost two-thirds of whom have died, the health ministry said late Sunday.

"The accumulated number of cases is 1,009," of which 629 cases were fatal, it said.

The outbreak was first recorded in North Kivu province on August 1, and then spread to neighbouring Ituri province.

Its toll is the second deadliest in the history of Ebola, after an epidemic in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in 2014-6 that claimed 11,308 lives, according to the website of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Ebola virus disease was first discovered in 1974 in a village near the Democratic Republic of Congo's Ebola River, which gave the disease its name.

Efforts to contain the latest outbreak, the 10th in the DRC's history, have been hampered by poor security in the highly unstable east, which teems with militia groups.

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