



Adherence to Infection Prevention and Control Protocols Among Healthcare Workers in Ebola Treatment Units: A Brief Report from North Kivu, 2020

Aminata Diop¹, Moussa Sarr^{2,3}

¹ Department of Public Health, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) Senegal

² Université Gaston Berger (UGB), Saint-Louis

³ African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) Senegal

Published: 12 February 2020 | **Received:** 25 November 2019 | **Accepted:** 12 January 2020

Correspondence: adiop@aol.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18531622](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18531622)

Author notes

Aminata Diop is affiliated with Department of Public Health, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) Senegal and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Moussa Sarr is affiliated with Université Gaston Berger (UGB), Saint-Louis and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Abstract

The Democratic Republic of the Congo faced a major Ebola Virus Disease outbreak. Healthcare workers in Ebola Treatment Units are at high infection risk, making strict adherence to Infection Prevention and Control protocols vital for their safety and outbreak containment. This brief report assessed the level of adherence to IPC protocols among healthcare workers within ETUs in North Kivu province during the outbreak response. A cross-sectional, observational study was conducted using structured checklists to directly observe IPC practices during high-risk procedures. A self-administered questionnaire assessed knowledge and perceived barriers. Participants included a purposive sample of clinical staff from multiple ETUs. Overall adherence to critical IPC protocols was suboptimal, with a mean observed compliance rate of 67%. The most frequent lapses were in the correct sequence of donning and doffing personal protective equipment and in hand hygiene practices between patient contacts. Questionnaire data highlighted resource shortages and fatigue as key perceived barriers. Adherence to essential IPC measures among healthcare workers in this setting was inconsistent, exposing them to preventable risk and underscoring a vulnerability in outbreak response systems. Immediate, intensive refresher training focused on high-risk procedures is required. ETU management must ensure consistent availability of IPC resources and implement supportive supervision to reinforce safe practices and address staff fatigue. Infection Prevention and Control, Ebola, healthcare workers, adherence, outbreak, Democratic Republic of the Congo This report provides field evidence on IPC compliance gaps during a major Ebola outbreak, informing targeted interventions to protect frontline workers in similar high-risk settings.

Keywords: *Ebola Virus Disease, Infection Prevention and Control, Healthcare Workers, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Adherence, Personal Protective Equipment, Outbreak Response*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

Email: info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

Submit at: app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge