

Lassa fever Situation Report

Epi Week 42: 18 – 24 October 2021

Key Points

Table 1: Summary of current week (42), cumulative from Epi week 01–42, 2021 and comparison with previous year (2020)

Reporting Period	Suspected cases	Confirmed cases	Probable cases	Deaths (Confirmed cases)	Case Fatality Ratio (CFR)	States and LGAs affected (Confirmed cases)
Current week (week 42)	81	8	0	0	0.0%	State(s): 4 LGA(s): 4
2021 Cumulative (week 1-42)	3419	401	3	79	19.7%	State(s): 15 LGA(s): 61
2020 Cumulative (week 1-42)	5931	1116	14	230	20.6%	State(s): 27 LGA(s): 130

Highlights

- In week 42, the number of new confirmed cases increased from 7 in week 41, 2021 to 8 cases. These were reported from Ondo, Edo, Imo and Bauchi States (Table 3)
- Cumulatively from week 1 to week 41, 2021, 79 deaths have been reported with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 19.7% which is lower than the CFR for the same period in 2020 (20.6%)
- In total for 2021, 15 States have recorded at least one confirmed case across 61 Local Government Areas (Figure 2 and 3)
- Of all confirmed cases, 84% are from Edo (44%), Ondo (35%) and Taraba (5%) States.
- The predominant age-group affected is 21-30 years (Range: <1 to 70 years, Median Age: 29 years). The male to female ratio for confirmed cases is 1:0.8 (Figure 4)
- The number of suspected cases has decreased compared to that reported for the same period in 2020
- No new Healthcare worker affected in the reporting week 42
- National Lassa fever multi-partner, multi-sectoral Technical Working Group (TWG) continues to coordinate the response activities at all levels

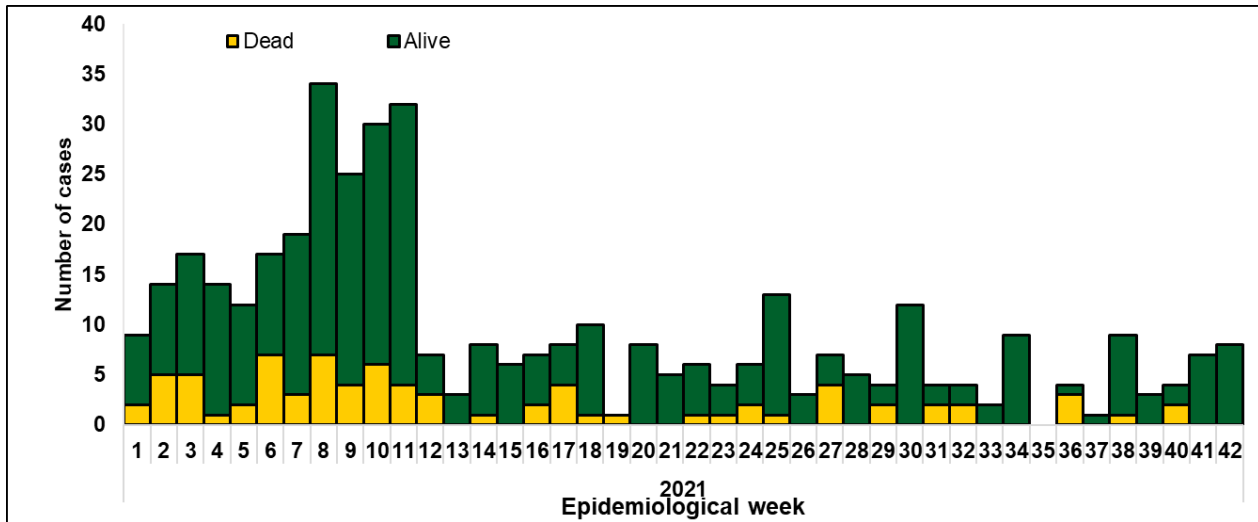


Figure 1. Epidemic curve of confirmed Lassa fever cases epidemiological week 42, 2021

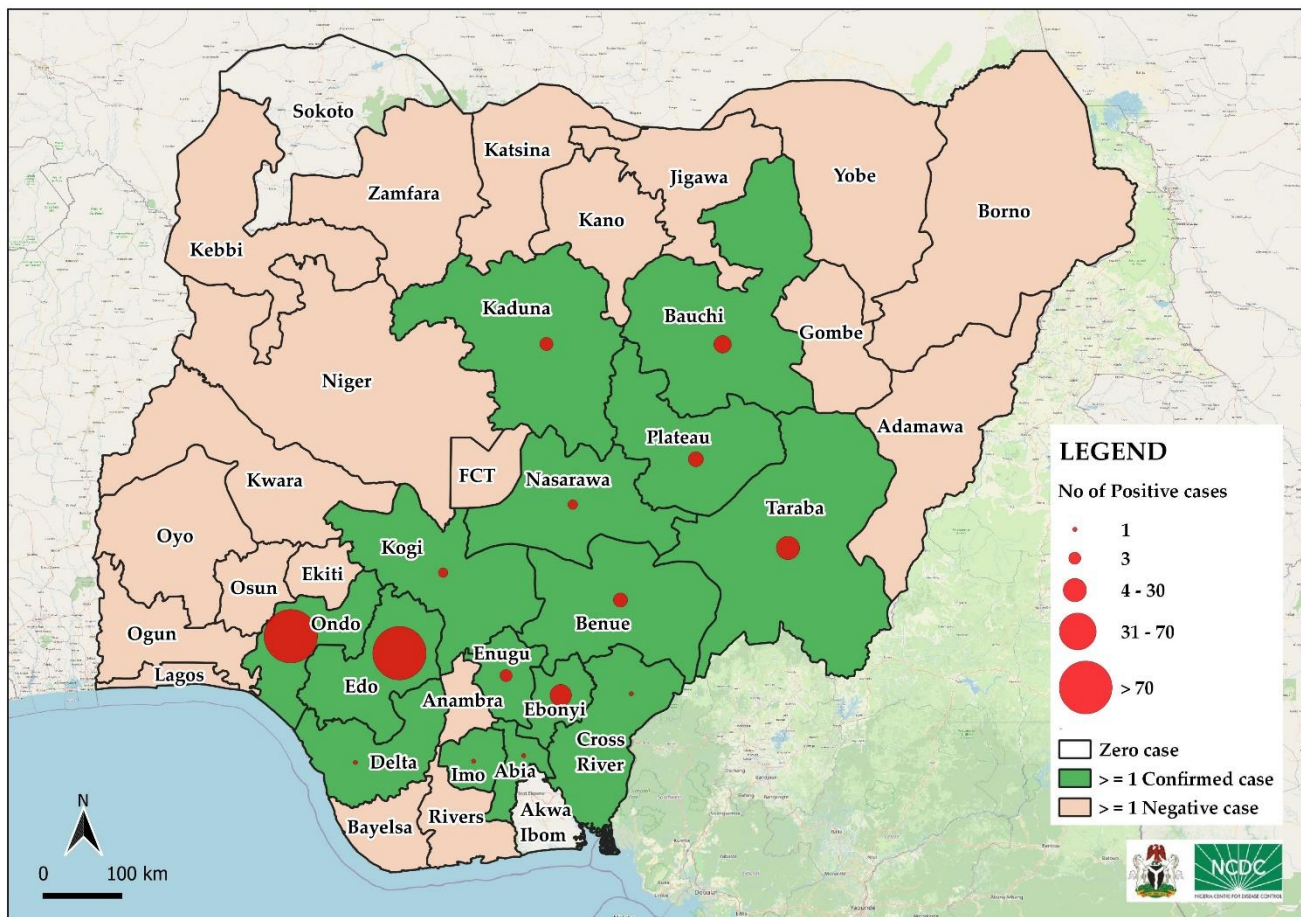


Figure 2. Confirmed Lassa fever cases by States in Nigeria, week 42, 2021

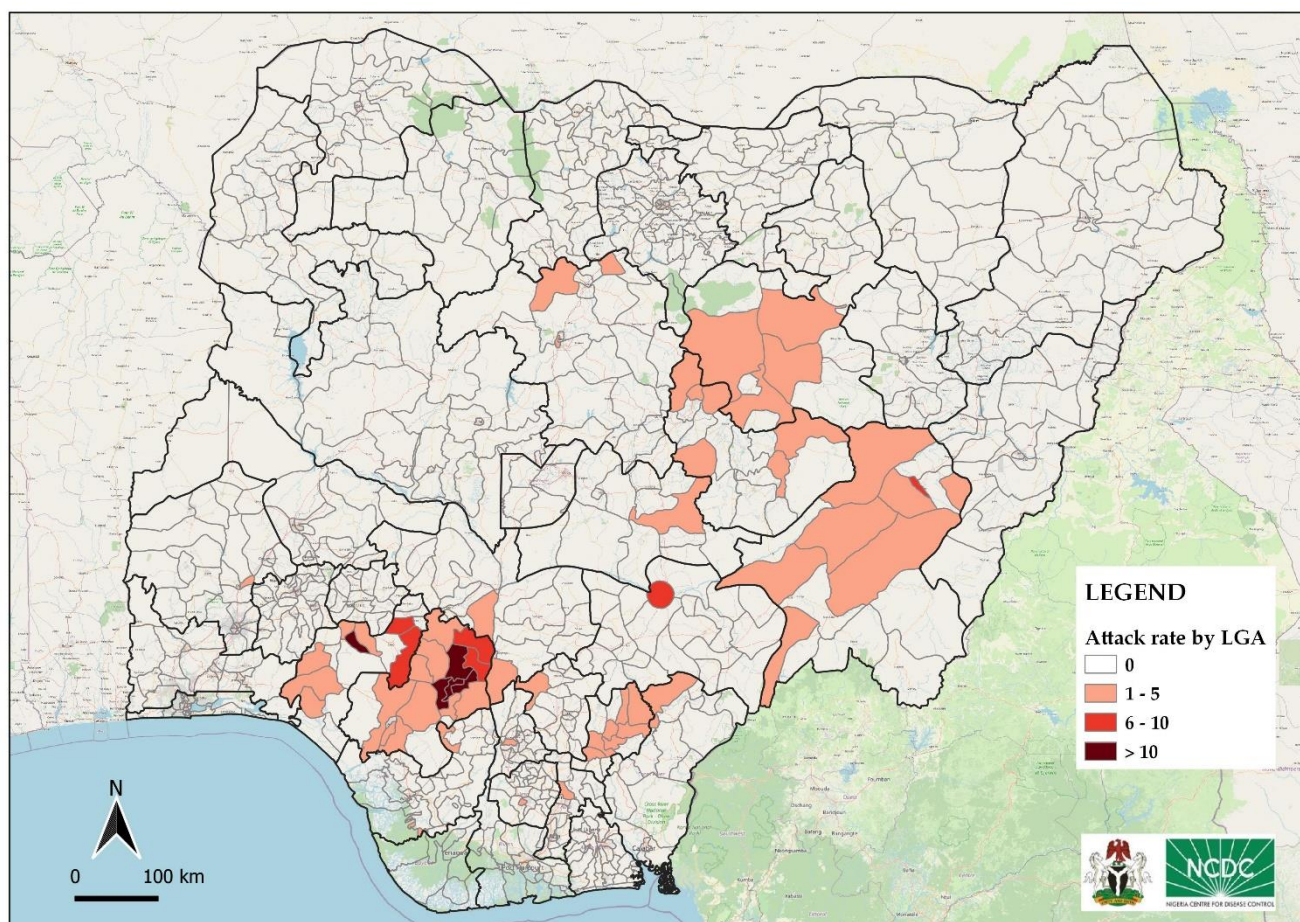


Figure 3. Confirmed Lassa fever rate per 100,000 population for LGAs in Nigeria, week 42, 2021

Table 2: Key indicators for current week 2021 and trend compared to previous week, Nigeria

Indicator	Number for current week	Trend from previous week	Cumulative number for 2020
Probable cases	0	↔	3
Health Care Worker affected	0	↔	6
Cases undergoing treatment in Treatment centres	8	↑	375
Contact tracing			
Cumulative contact listed	12	↑	2172
Contacts under follow up	107	↑	107
Contacts completed follow up	10	↑	2048
Symptomatic contacts	0	↔	15
Positive contacts	0	↔	10
Contacts lost to follow up	0	↔	7

Key

- ↑ Increase
- ↓ Decrease
- ↔ No difference

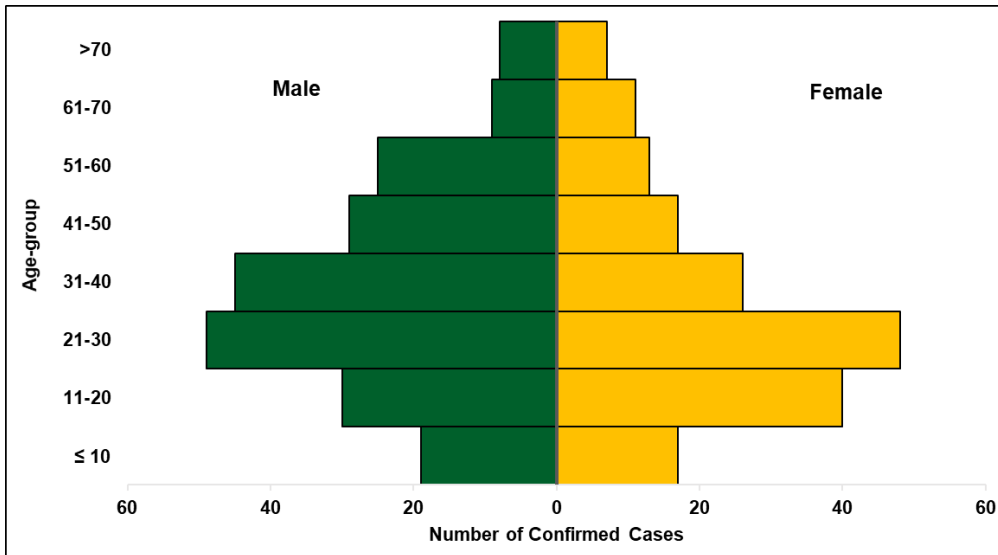


Figure 4. Age and sex pyramid showing number of confirmed Lassa fever cases for 2021

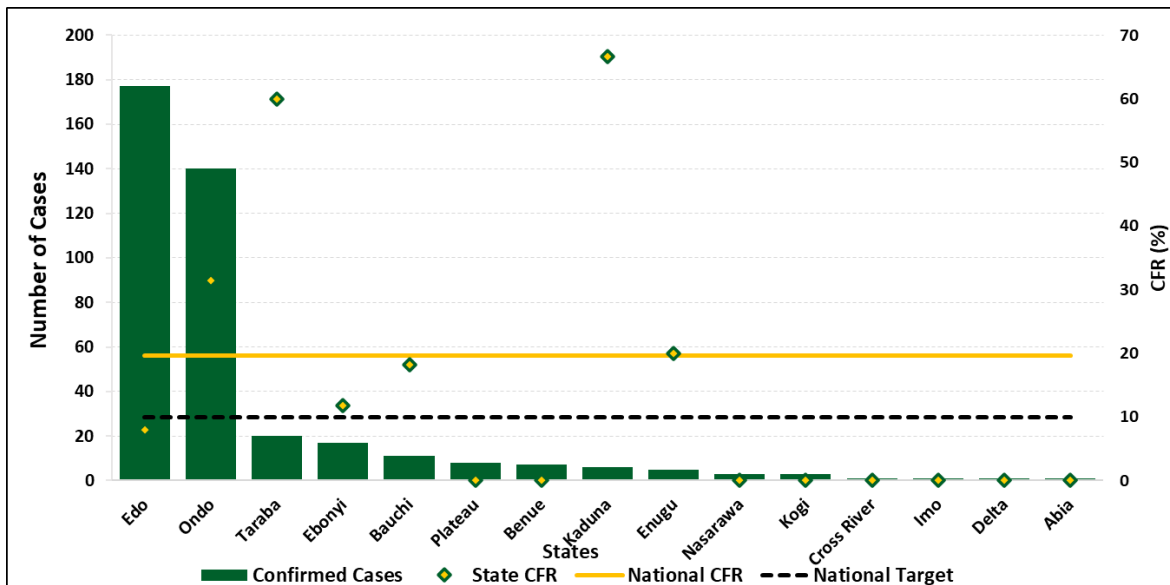


Figure 5: Number of confirmed cases with case fatality rate (CFR) by state week 41 2021

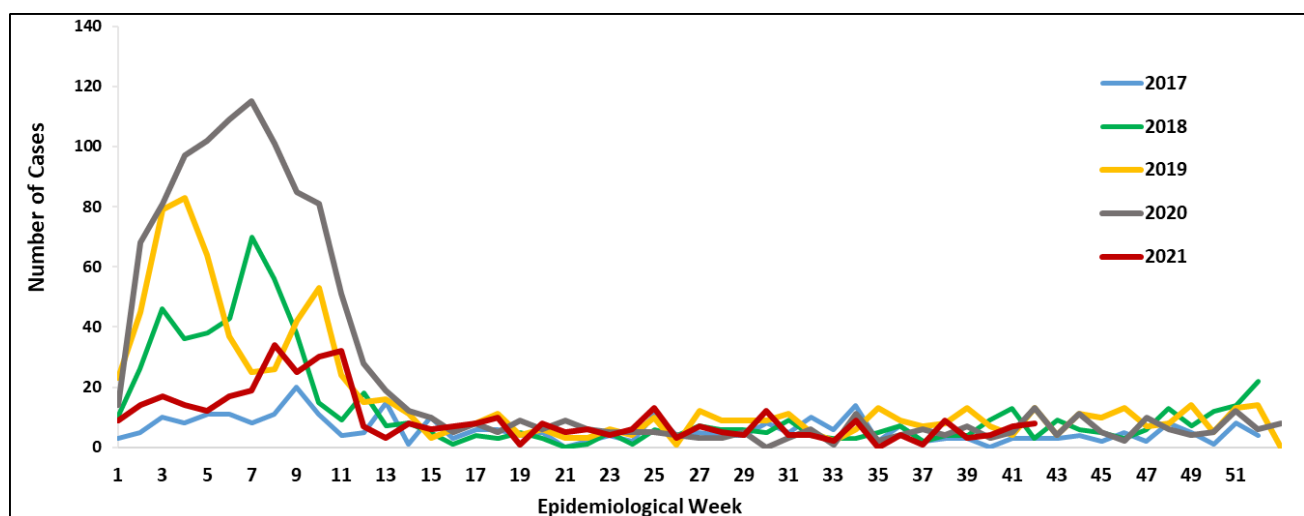


Figure 6: Trend of confirmed cases by epidemiological week, 2017– 2021, Nigeria

Table 5: Response activities

Pillar	Activities to date	Next steps
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted 2021 Lassa fever high burden States preparedness/response engagement meeting • Lassa fever alert letters sent to States • The National Emergency Operations Centre alert mode activated 2021 for effective multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary coordination of Lassa fever response • NRRT deployment to Kaduna, Bauchi and Taraba 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalisation of the Lassa fever five-year Strategic plan
Case management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmed cases are treated at identified treatment centres across the states • Dissemination of reviewed case management and safe burial practices guidelines • Mortality review of Lassa fever deaths • In-depth investigation of healthcare worker infections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of HCWs on Lassa fever case management and psychosocial support • Pilot indigent patient treatment scheme through the basic healthcare provision fund
Infection Prevention and Control and Safe burial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination of reviewed IPC guideline • Dissemination of health facility IPC advisory • Dissemination of Lassa fever Healthcare worker advisories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPC training for Healthcare workers
Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis of all samples in the five Lassa fever testing laboratories across the country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of additional Lassa fever testing Laboratories • Harmonisation of laboratory and surveillance data ongoing
Logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response commodities -PPEs, Ribavirin (injection and tablets) body-bags, thermometers, hypochlorite hand sanitizers, IEC materials distributed to states and treatment centres 	
Research Pillar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Nigeria Lassa fever epidemiological Study supported by CEPI 	
Risk communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of targeted risk communication activities in most affected States • Dissemination of media content including press releases, tweets, public advisories etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct national Lassa fever awareness and prevention campaign
Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update of VHF Case Investigation Form (CIF) database • Enhanced surveillance (contact tracing and active case finding) in affected state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of national and State emergency composite indicators
State Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-sectoral Public Health Emergency Operation Centres (PHEOC)activated in affected States • Periodic implementation of vector control measures in Edo and Ondo States 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support states to develop and implement Lassa fever response sustainability plan
Federal Ministry of Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Lassa fever Environmental response campaign in high burden states 	Operationalization of LGA Sanitation desks by Environmental health officers in all States

Challenges

- Late presentation of cases leading to increase in CFR
- Inadequate bed capacity/treatment Centre for management of Lassa fever
- Overwhelming response activities at subnational level due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic
- Poor environmental sanitation conditions observed in high burden communities

Notes on this report

Data Source

Information for this disease was case based data retrieved from the National Lassa fever Emergency Operations Centre.

Case definitions

- **Suspected case:** any individual presenting with one or more of the following: malaise, fever, headache, sore throat, cough, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, myalgia, chest pain, hearing loss and either a. History of contact with excreta or urine of rodents b. History of contact with a probable or confirmed Lassa fever case within a period of 21 days of onset of symptoms OR Any person with inexplicable bleeding/hemorrhagia.
- **Confirmed case:** any suspected case with laboratory confirmation (positive IgM antibody, PCR or virus isolation)
- **Probable case:** any suspected case (see definition above) who died or absconded without collection of specimen for laboratory testing
- **Contact:** Anyone who has been exposed to an infected person, or to an infected person's secretions, excretions, or tissues within three weeks of last contact with a confirmed or probable case of Lassa fever

Calculations

- Case Fatality Rate (CFR) for this disease is reported for confirmed cases only

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