

Impact of emergency operation centre meetings on Lassa fever case management in Edo State, Nigeria, 2025

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Introduction

Lassa fever remains a recurring problem in Edo State, Nigeria, often placing significant pressure on the healthcare system during outbreaks. In response to these challenges, Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) meetings were introduced to enhance outbreak response. This study explores how these regular EOC meetings have impacted case management outcomes during the 2025 outbreak.

Methods

We conducted a retrospective observational study using records from EOC meetings and hospital-based data. Data before and after the initiation of routine EOC meetings were analyzed. Quantitative benchmarks included treatment time, case fatality rate (CFR), and average duration of hospital stay. Additionally, in-depth interviews with frontline case workers were conducted to understand the effects of the meetings on collaboration, communication, and clinical decision-making.

Results

Following the commencement of EOC meetings, the mean time from diagnosis to treatment initiation dropped from 8.5 hours to 4 hours. The

CFR declined from 22% to 14% while the average hospital stay decreased from 15 to 10 days. Qualitative data revealed improved communication across health institutions, streamlined resource distribution, and quicker decision-making during outbreaks.

Conclusion

The structured and regular use of EOC meetings during the outbreak in 2025 led to more efficient coordination and better outcomes in case management. These findings highlight the critical role of coordination platforms in strengthening epidemic responses. We recommend that EOC frameworks should be integrated permanently into outbreak preparedness and case management systems across Lassa endemic zones in Nigeria.