



Current Ebola virus risk assessment in Prison

There is currently an outbreak of Ebola occurring in West Africa with widespread transmission continuing in: **Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia**. There has been limited transmission in Nigeria and more recently, Spain and USA and isolated 'imported' cases in Senegal. **Senegal and Nigeria have now been declared Ebola free.**

Public Health England has informed NOMS that the risk of Ebola arriving in the UK is **low**. To date, the case of a British Health Care Worker, who acquired the disease while working in a hospital in Sierra Leone, and was subsequently repatriated to the UK for treatment, is the only case reported in this country.

Although unlikely, it is not impossible that infected people from Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia could arrive in the UK while incubating the disease (incubation period is 2-21 days) and develop symptoms after their arrival.

Screening for symptoms of the disease have been introduced at airports in **Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia** for exiting passengers and are being introduced at the main airports in this country for in-coming passengers from affected areas.

The above measures are designed to further reduce the already limited risk of importation of cases to this country. The risk of people being incarcerated in prisons in England and Wales having arrived from **Sierra Leone, Guinea or Liberia** in the preceding 21 days, is very low. However those that have may need to undergo a brief risk assessment to determine if they might be at risk of Ebola infection. This algorithm has been developed to assist **prison healthcare staff** carrying out the initial health assessment of detainees.

Further information about the Ebola virus outbreak is available at:

- all clinical management guidance is published on Gov.uk and is available at : <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ebola-virus-disease-clinical-management-and-guidance>
- national primary care assessment guidance algorithms (v3, 17 October 2014), at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ebola-virus-disease-managing-patients-who-require-assessment-in-primary-care>

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Algorithm to inform the initial assessment of detainees arriving at a Prison from West Africa.

