



Current Ebola virus risk assessment at Immigration Removal Centres

There is currently an outbreak of Ebola virus disease occurring in West Africa, which was first reported in March 2014 in Guinea. As of 8 October (7 October for Liberia and Guinea) a total of 8,399 compatible cases (CCC) of Ebola virus Disease (EVD) (4,655 confirmed), including 4,033 deaths have been reported mainly from countries with widespread and intense transmission (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) and in very limited numbers, from countries with an initial imported case(s), with or without localised transmission (Nigeria, Senegal, Spain and United States of America).

Ebola is a rare but serious viral infection, spread person to person by direct contact with blood and body fluids of infected people. The incubation period of Ebola ranges from 2 to 21 days, and so whilst unlikely, it is not impossible that a person infected in Guinea, Liberia or Sierra Leone could arrive in the UK before developing symptoms.

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.

Screening for symptoms of the disease have been introduced at airports in the 3 countries of West Africa 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.

Only a small number of new detainees at Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) will have arrived from West Africa within the preceding 21 days, 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 IRC healthcare staff carrying out the initial health assessment of detainees.

Any person who has been in West Africa in the previous 21 days should be risk assessed using the algorithm attached. If there are any concerns, please contact your local Public Health England health protection team for further advice.

Further information about the Ebola virus outbreak can be found on the following webpages:

Public Health England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ebola-virus-disease-clinical-management-and-guidance>

World Health Organization (WHO):

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/index.html>

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Algorithm to inform the initial assessment of detainees arriving at an IRC from West Africa.

