

# AIRPORT SCREENING

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October 13, 2015

# OBJECTIVES

- Understand mandates and reasoning for exit screening during a Public Health Emergency of International Concern
- Recognize components of screening
- Discuss CDC's support of Ebola exit screening activities in West Africa
- Share lessons learned from exit screening in West Africa

# IHR AND AIRPORT SCREENING DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN (PHEIC)

- A formal plan [must be] in place to apply entry or exit screening controls at point of entry, if and when recommended, to enable a risk assessment of the individual traveler...”

Assessment tool for core capacity requirements at designated airport, ports, and ground crossings, WHO

# STATEMENT ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF IHR EMERGENCY COMMITTEE ON THE 2014 EBOLA OUTBREAK (AUGUST 2014)

## □ States with Ebola transmission

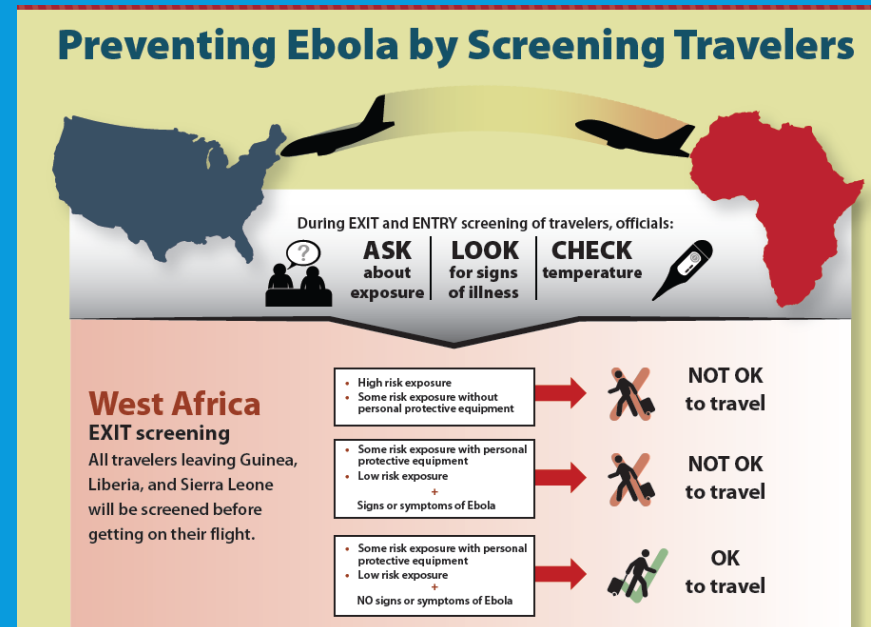
- “States should conduct exit screening of all persons at international airports, seaports, and major land crossings, for unexplained febrile illness consistent with potential Ebola infection. The exit screening should consist of, at a minimum, a questionnaire, a temperature assessment, and if there is a fever, an assessment of the risk that the fever is caused by EVD. Any person with an illness consistent with EVD should not be allowed to travel unless the travel is part of an appropriate medical evacuation.”

# CONTINUATION OF EXIT SCREENING FOR EBOLA AS CASES DECREASE

- From 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of IHR Emergency Committee (5 October, 2015):
  - Exit screening should be continued in Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia until EVD transmission has stopped in the entire sub region
  - Detailed statistics on exit screening should be published monthly

# WHY CONDUCT EXIT SCREENING AT AIRPORTS IN WEST AFRICA FOR EBOLA?

- Mitigates risk of international spread
- Concentrates screening resources at highly trafficked ports
- Prevents travelers from leaving country by commercial transport until it is confirmed they are not sick or at risk of spreading Ebola



# STEPS TO PREPARE FOR SCREENING

- ❑ Acknowledge resources available and desired outcome of screening in response to possible mandate to apply screening controls
- ❑ Identity committee to develop, coordinate, and enact decisions
- ❑ Develop Standard Operating Procedures
- ❑ Develop and maintain communication flow to travelers and the public
- ❑ Train staff on screening responsibilities
- ❑ Ensure that screening materials and reliable equipment are available
- ❑ Develop system to incorporate screening data with national data/surveillance system
- ❑ Coordinate logistics surrounding baggage and customs procedures, as appropriate

# CDC SUPPORT FOR EBOLA EXIT SCREENING AT AIRPORTS: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

## □ Country Specific Assistance:

- Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone: August 2014-Present
- Nigeria: August 2014-September 2014
- Senegal: September 2014 to October 2014
- Mali: November 2014 to January 2015

## □ Recommendations tailored to each country's needs

## □ Teams composed of migration and border health specialists

## □ Teams integrated into overall CDC response in host nation and supported by the CDC Emergency Operations Center in Atlanta



# CDC SUPPORT FOR EBOLA EXIT SCREENING AT AIRPORTS: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (CONTINUED)

- Developed and delivered training on signs and symptoms of Ebola, exit screening procedures and documentation, and appropriate PPE use
- Provided posters to aid in communicating to travelers
- Current work at airports in affected countries is also focused on emergency preparedness capacity building



**HEALTH ADVISORY:  
EBOLA**

Ebola spreads through direct contact with an infected person's blood or body fluids (such as saliva or urine).

**Leaving West Africa?**

Watch for fever, headaches, and body aches in the next 3 weeks.

**3 WEEKS**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

If you get sick, call a doctor.

Tell the doctor you were in a country with Ebola.

The poster features a map of West Africa, a thermometer icon, a green silhouette of a person with lightning bolts indicating symptoms, a calendar for the next 3 weeks, and icons of a person calling a doctor and a person at an airport.

# LESSONS LEARNED FROM EXIT SCREENING DURING EBOLA OUTBREAK IN WEST AFRICA

- Preparation makes implementation easier
- Resource intensive, especially in staffing
- Requires tremendous attention to detail
- Requires extensive partner coordination
- Needs to be integrated, coordinated with and supported by the national Ebola response
- A multi-layered approach to exit screening is essential