



# **IHR Emergency Committee on the 2014 / 15 Ebola outbreak in West Africa**

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# IHR Emergency Committee

- ❖ Composed of international experts to provide technical advice to the WHO Director-General in the context of a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC).
- ❖ Emergency Committee may advise on whether or not a PHEIC is occurring.
- ❖ If the Director-General determines that the event constitutes a PHEIC, the Emergency Committee will then provide advice on appropriate Temporary Recommendations of health measures to be implemented by States Parties.
- ❖ As a PHEIC proceeds, the Emergency Committee continues to provide advice to the Director-General.

# Ebola Disease Outbreak in West Africa (2014 - 15)

- ❖ In August 2014, the WHO Director-General convened an IHR Emergency Committee and based on the recommendation from the first meeting, declared the Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak in West Africa a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).
- ❖ IHR Emergency Committee made temporary recommendations for States with widespread and intense Ebola transmission.
- ❖ They 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 measurement and, if there is a fever, an assessment of the risk that the fever is caused by EVD.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting

- ❖ Reinforce recommendations
- ❖ Concern about travel disruptions....



# 3<sup>rd</sup> IHR Emergency Committee Meeting

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. 2014

Exit screening remains critical for reducing the exportation of Ebola cases.

- ❖ States with widespread and intense Ebola transmission should maintain and reinforce **high-quality exit screening** of all persons at international airports, seaport, and major land crossings, for unexplained febrile illness consistent with potential Ebola infection.
- ❖ States should **collect data from their exit screening processes, monitor their results**, and share these with WHO on a regular basis and in a timely fashion. This will increase public confidence and provide important information to other States.
- ❖ WHO and partners should **provide additional support** needed by States to further strengthen exit screening processes in a sustainable way.

# 4<sup>th</sup> IHR Emergency Committee Meeting

## 21 January 2015

### **For Affected Countries:**

The Committee strongly reiterated the previous temporary recommendation on exit screening and **highlighted the value of exit screening** in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia.

### **For Countries Sharing Borders with Affected Countries:**

These countries should be **conducting active surveillance**, including in border areas, and engaging in cross-border cooperation, information and asset sharing, and continued vigilance for new cases.

### **For all countries:**

The Committee reaffirmed the need to **avoid unnecessary interference** with international travel and trade, as specified in Article 2 of the IHR 2005.

# 5<sup>th</sup> IHR Emergency Committee Meeting

## 9 April 2015 (1)

### For Affected Countries:

- ❖ Exit screening must be maintained for at least 42 days after the last case has twice tested negative for Ebola;
- ❖ countries are encouraged to maintain exit screening until human-to-human transmission has stopped in the entire subregion.
- ❖ The Committee again urged affected countries to provide WHO, on a monthly basis, with the number of people screened at international airports and the results of such screening.



# 5<sup>th</sup> IHR Emergency Committee Meeting

## 9 April 2015 (2)

### For Countries Sharing Borders with Affected Countries:

- ❖ The Committee reemphasized the need to **continue to reinforce active surveillance**, particularly in border areas,
- ❖ Engage in **cross-border cooperation, information and asset sharing**, continued vigilance for new cases, and tracing of known contacts.
- ❖ The Committee **highlighted the strong social and cultural linkages** that cross national boundaries and must be taken into account in planning and implementing such activities.



# 5<sup>th</sup> IHR Emergency Committee Meeting

## 9 April 2015 (3)

### For all other countries:

- ❖ The Committee reaffirmed the need to **avoid unnecessary interference with international travel** and transport,
- ❖ Only implement measures which are **commensurate with the current public health risks**, as specified in Article 2 of the IHR 2005 and expressed in the current temporary recommendations.
- ❖ The Committee welcomed WHO's continued **work to monitor inappropriate measures and urged States Parties to reverse quickly any such measures** and to inform WHO of such action in advance of the World Health Assembly discussion on the Ebola crisis in May 2015.

# EBOLA WHO website

- Technical information
  - Travel and PoE
  - Infection control
  - Social mobilization
  - Epidemiology
  - Preparedness and response
  - Patient care
- Guidelines
- Meeting reports
- Disease outbreak news

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

**Global Alert and Response (GAR)**

GAR Home  
Alert & Response Operations  
**Diseases**  
Global Outbreak Alert & Response Network  
Biorisk Reduction

### Ebola virus disease (EVD)

WHO responds to Ebola virus disease outbreak

Ebola virus disease (formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever) is a severe, often fatal illness, with a case fatality rate of up to 90%. It is one of the world's most virulent diseases. The infection is transmitted by direct contact with the blood, body fluids and tissues of infected animals or people. Severely ill patients require intensive supportive care. During an outbreak, those at higher risk of infection are health workers, family members and others in close contact with sick people and deceased patients.

Ebola virus disease outbreaks can devastate families and communities, but the infection can be controlled through the use of recommended protective measures in clinics and hospitals, at community gatherings, or at home.

**Key information**

- Advice for travellers  
Information for travellers on risk, precautions and symptoms
- Frequently asked questions on Ebola virus disease  
Updated 8 July 2014
- Fact sheet on Ebola virus disease  
Essential information on disease, transmission, prevention

**Technical information**

**Infection control**  
Interim infection control recommendations for care of patients with suspected or confirmed Filovirus (Ebola, Marburg) haemorrhagic fever  
Interim summary of infection control recommendations

**Social mobilization**  
Communication for behavioural impact (COMBI)  
A toolkit for behavioural and social communication in outbreak response

– Complete list of documents

**Ethical discussions on Ebola**

Panel discussion on ethical considerations for use of unregistered interventions for Ebola viral disease  
8 August 2014

WHO to convene ethical review of experimental treatment for Ebola  
6 August 2014

**Emergency Committee on Ebola**

WHO statement: IHR Emergency Committee on 2014 Ebola Outbreak in west Africa

IHR Emergency Committee on Ebola List of Members and Advisors

General information on IHR Emergency Committees

**WHO action**

Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak Response



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**Thank you**  
**Merci**  
**Obrigado**

