



# **Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak**

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# EXIT SCREENING

In August 2014, the WHO Director-General declared the Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak in West Africa a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

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.

# 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.



# EXIT Versus ENTRY Screening

A number of States have recently introduced entry screening measures. WHO encourages countries implementing such measures to share their experiences and lessons learned.

Entry screening may have a limited effect in reducing international spread when added to exit screening, and its advantages and disadvantages should be carefully considered.

If entry screening is implemented, States should take into account the following considerations: it offers an opportunity for individual sensitization, but the resource demands may be significant, even if screening is targeted; and management systems must be in place to care for travellers and suspected cases in compliance with International Health Regulations (IHR) requirements.



# WHO Interim Guidance on Exit Screening

This guidance was developed to assist countries in developing exit screening plans and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). This includes the method, tools, and sequence of screening; determining resource needs; communication messages; and the legal considerations of screening. It will be followed by a training toolkit...

It is based on the IHR (2005) framework, scientific evidence, existing international technical recommendations and standards, and lessons learned from exit screening practices in countries with EVD transmission.

It was prepared by WHO in collaboration with The International Civil Aviation Organization – ICAO, International Air Transport Association – IATA and US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - CDC, Atlanta, USA

Available at: <http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/ebola/exit-screening-guidance/en/>



# EBOLA WHO website

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

**Global Alert and Response (GAR)**

**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 6 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](#)

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

