



Ebola: advice and risk assessment for educational, childcare and young persons' settings

There is currently an outbreak of Ebola occurring in West Africa. It was first reported in March 2014 in Guinea and since late May has involved four countries: Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

There have been no cases in the UK and the risk of Ebola arriving in the UK is **very low**.

Ebola is a rare but serious viral infection. However, people in the UK are not at risk of Ebola as the virus is only transmitted by direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person.

It remains unlikely, but not impossible, that a person infected in Guinea, Liberia or Sierra Leone* could arrive in the UK. The affected countries are introducing exit screening at airports to ensure that individuals who are unwell do not board flights. This is in line with World Health Organization (WHO) guidance and is one of many measures to reduce the risk of international spread of disease.

- the risk of Ebola arriving in the UK is **very low**
- there have been several previous outbreaks of Ebola in Africa, but none have occurred in Europe
- transmission of Ebola from person to person is by direct contact with the blood and body fluids of an ill person with the disease. The virus is not spread by the airborne route
- the time between contact with the infected person and the time that first symptoms appear (incubation period) of Ebola ranges from two to 21 days
- any persons arriving back in the UK having travelled from any of the affected countries, and who are free of symptoms, are **not infectious** and there should be **no restrictions** on their school attendance or normal activities

* Nigeria is purposely not included in this list or the risk assessment algorithm, as the situation in Nigeria is currently different to the other affected countries.

The attached algorithm has been developed specifically to assist educational, childcare and young persons' settings who may have children/students returning or visiting from affected countries.

All staff or those with contact with children should already be aware of what to do if a child/student falls ill and there is general guidance (referenced below) on infection control in school and childcare settings.

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

Public Health England (including the outbreak and maps of affected area):

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/Ebola/>

WHO:

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

Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Childcare Settings

http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1203496946639

Foreign travel advice

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

First published: 13 August 2014

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Ebola risk assessment in educational, childcare and young persons' settings

This algorithm is to inform the assessment of unwell children in educational, childcare and young persons' settings, and will assist the public health response and ensure the appropriate organisations are informed. If the child is unable to answer questions, please seek information from the responsible adult.

