



Ebola: Guidance to Police Forces on Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

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, a total of 8,399 clinically compatible cases 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.

Police officers may therefore come into contact with people recently returned from outbreak countries and this information leaflet provides advice on the nature of **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** which is indicated depending on different circumstances if interacting with people with symptoms of possible infection with Ebola who also have a history of recent travel from outbreak countries to the UK.

- **non-physical contact** (eg interviewing people) – **no PPE required**;
- **physical contact with mildly symptomatic cases** (eg with fever) – **Standard precautions apply**: Hand hygiene, gloves, plastic apron;
- **physical contact with overtly symptomatic cases**: Hand hygiene, gloves, plastic apron, fluid repellent surgical facemask, eye protection
- **physical contact with severely symptomatic patients eg those with extensive bruising and/or active bleeding and/or uncontrolled diarrhoea and/or uncontrolled vomiting**: Hand hygiene, double gloves, fluid repellent disposable gown/suit, eye protection, FFP3 respirator

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

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

<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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