

Information on Ebola Virus Disease for Passengers

(this fact-sheet relies on a template provided by the Public Health Authority of Frankfurt am Main, as of September 08, 2014)

Ebola belongs to the group of rare but often fatal viral haemorrhagic fevers. The pathogen, the Ebola virus, was discovered in 1976 and has since caused numerous outbreaks in Africa, especially in Uganda and in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Since March 2014, the Ebola outbreak in West Africa which originated in Guinea* has spread to Sierra Leone* and Liberia* with further cases with localized transmission in Nigeria. An independent outbreak has occurred in the Democratic Republic of Congo. On 8. August 2014 the WHO has declared the Ebola epidemic a public health emergency of international concern. The federal foreign office recommends avoiding any unnecessary travel into the three most affected countries* because of the unprecedented Ebola outbreak and the aggravated security situation. Up-to-date information of the countries affected as well as case numbers can be obtained from www.rki.de.

Ebola virus is found in fruit bats, apes and forest antelopes. It is introduced into human populations through close contact with infected animals and by consumption of bushmeat. Transmission from human to human is due to direct contact through broken skin or mucous membranes with blood or secretions of an infected person.

Symptoms of Ebola virus disease occur 2 to 21 days after infection typically after 8-10 days

- sudden onset of fever
- head ache and sore throat
- joint and muscle aches
- conjunctivitis
- weakness
- lack of appetite, nausea and vomiting
- stomach pain, diarrhea
- skin rash, unexplained bleeding or bruising

Introduction of Ebola virus disease to Europe by a passenger from West Africa who develops symptoms during or after the flight cannot be totally excluded. However the risk of a subsequent spread of the disease in Europe is considered extremely low.

The risk of transmission during the flight is very low.

Travelers to West Africa should take the following measures

- Avoid any contact with blood or other bodily fluids of infected patients or deceased.
- Avoid any contact with wild animals.
- Avoid eating bushmeat.

Recommendations for travelers returning from countries with Ebola virus disease

If you develop fever within 21 days after returning from such a country and if you

- had contact with bodily fluids from a patient with Ebola virus disease or a deceased or
- had contact with wild animals or had eaten bushmeat

you should

► immediately inform your doctor and mention your journey.

In case you develop those symptoms immediately after disembarking, you may address yourself to the airport doctor or clinic.

For further questions don't hesitate to contact the Public Health Authority.

Stempel