



Ebola virus disease: current risk assessment at police custody suites

There is currently an outbreak of Ebola viral disease occurring in West Africa with widespread transmission continuing in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. This is the largest ever known outbreak of this disease prompting the World Health Organization (WHO) to declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern in August 2014. Cases have also occurred in Senegal, Nigeria, Mali, the US, UK and Spain.

Although unlikely, it is not impossible that infected people from Guinea, Liberia, or Sierra Leone could arrive in the UK while incubating the disease (the incubation period for Ebola is between two and 21 days).

While a fever in persons coming from Ebola transmission areas is more likely to be caused by a common infection, such as malaria or typhoid fever, staff in police custody suites should remain vigilant for those who have come from areas affected by this outbreak and subsequently become unwell.

Screening for symptoms of the disease has been introduced at airports in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone for exiting passengers. For incoming passengers from affected areas screening has been introduced at the main airports in England, the Eurostar terminal at St Pancras and at seaports in response to shipping movements. Remote (over the phone) screening arrangements are in place for people arriving from Guinea, Liberia or Sierra Leone at other ports of entry in England

The above measures are designed to further reduce the already limited risk of importation of cases to this country.

The risk of people being detained in police custody suites in England having arrived from Guinea, Liberia or Sierra Leone in the preceding 21 days is very low. However, those that have may need to undergo a risk assessment to determine if they might be at risk of Ebola infection. The algorithm in this document has been developed to assist police staff in police custody suites when dealing with detainees recently arrived (within the past 21 days) from Guinea, Liberia or Sierra Leone.

* For information about the Ebola outbreak, please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/ebola-virus-government-response>

Further information about the Ebola virus outbreak is available:

- all clinical management guidance is published on www.gov.uk and is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ebola-virus-disease-clinical-management-and-guidance>
- national primary care assessment guidance algorithms are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ebola-virus-disease-managing-patients-who-require-assessment-in-primary-care>

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Algorithm to inform the initial assessment of detainees arriving at a PCS from West Africa

