



Returning from West Africa? Information about Ebola.

Step-by-step guide to the screening process for those returning from Ebola-affected countries: V1.3 July 2015

Public Health England (PHE) takes a partnership approach to working with organisations deploying workers to countries affected by Ebola. We set up the Returning Workers Scheme (RWS) to establish a consistent follow-up of workers and to meet their health needs as well as safeguarding the health of the wider public. This leaflet outlines how the Ebola screening system works at ports (air/land/sea) – and what you can expect on your return to the UK.

- We strongly request all returning staff or volunteers, who are likely to be a higher risk (ie PHE Categories 2 or 3), travel into the UK via London Heathrow. This will help us to deliver an efficient programme with targeted terminal screening arrangements, so that returnees are seen swiftly after landing.
 - If you arrive at **Heathrow** and go directly to terminal 5 for a connecting flight from another terminal, you should identify yourself to UK Border Force staff so you can be screened there; however it is usually faster to be screened in the terminal you arrived in.

On arrival into London Heathrow or London Gatwick, before leaving the terminal your flight arrived in, please self-declare for Ebola screening (if you are not directed) at UK Border Force passport control desk rather than going direct to the screening facility. E-Gates should not be used by returning workers whatever the predicted risk category. Border Force staff will check your passport and direct you to a designated area.

- On arrival in the screening area, we will ask you to wait for a member of the screening team to see you. We attempt to keep this wait to a minimum. The waiting time will depend on the number of passengers and flights arriving at the terminal.
- Please note, if you have a connecting flight or reserved train, please advise a member of the public health team as soon as possible (showing your onward boarding card/tickets) so that we can prioritise you appropriately in the screening queue. Please allow a minimum of 90 minutes if you need to transit to other terminals or onward travel.
- You will be asked to complete an *Ebola health assessment form* and a member of the screening team will take your temperature. Your full cooperation in providing relevant information about your current and recent health, medication and activities while in country is vital. Unless absolutely necessary **please do not take anti-pyretics (eg paracetamol, aspirin, ibuprofen) on the flight, as this may complicate and possibly delay the screening process.**

- Depending on the categorisation of your 'risk of exposure' you may be directed to speak to a PHE consultant for further information and advice. This is a standard part of our operating procedure.
- If you are assessed as being in a higher risk category there is a 21-day monitoring period. A monitoring kit will be given to you at the airport or, if you are unable to carry it, will be couriered to you. Any requirements will be fully explained at the time of screening.
- If returning to **any UK port**, all staff/volunteers are required to present themselves to a staffed UK Border force passport control desk and declare that they have travelled from an Ebola-affected country. The returnee should confirm that they are a Returning Worker and UK Border Force will then collect basic contact and other information to enable PHE Health Protection teams to subsequently contact the returnee after their return to their place of residence. This will allow the completion of assessment.

If your travel arrangements change, please ensure that the Returning Workers Scheme (RWS) is advised at the earliest opportunity – no later than **72 hours** before arriving in the UK. Please ask your organisation's key point of contact to continue to send your forms to **EssexHPT@phe.gov.uk** and copy in **ReturningWorkersScheme@phe.gov.uk**

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