

The Republic of South Sudan



Ministry of Health *Office of the Undersecretary*

The South Sudan Protocol on Ebola Outbreak in West Africa

October 2014

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is a disease caused by one of the Ebola virus strains (Zaire, Sudan, Bundibugyo, or Tai Forest virus). EVD is an often fatal illness, with a case fatality rate of up to 90% with no prophylaxis, vaccine or treatment available. The first Ebola virus case was discovered in 1976 near the Ebola River in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Ebola spreads through direct contact through broken skin or unprotected mucous membranes with a sick person's blood or body fluids. It also spreads through contact with contaminated objects or infected animals; for example, through processing of bush meat. The incubation period, from exposure to when signs or symptoms appear, ranges from 2 to 21 days, with an average of 8 to 10 days.

The current EVD outbreak began in Guinea in December 2013. This outbreak now involves intense transmission in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and cases or localised transmissions in Nigeria, Senegal, Spain and the United States of America (USA). A separate outbreak of Ebola is also going on in DRC.

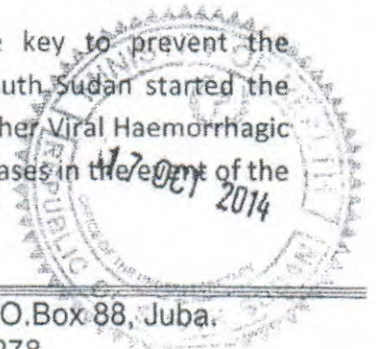
The current outbreak is the largest EVD outbreak ever recorded surpassing recorded cumulative figures in the past 38 years since the history of the outbreak.

EVD outbreaks can devastate families and communities, but the infection can be controlled through proper case detection, timely laboratory confirmation and the use of recommended infection prevention measures at health care settings, gatherings and at home.

South Sudan has not reported any Ebola cases so far, but the risk of importation for Ebola is very high, considering the increased international travels between South Sudan and west African countries affected by the Ebola outbreak.

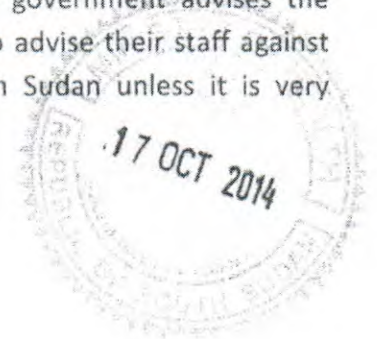
As early detection and containment of suspected cases is the key to prevent the introduction of the disease into currently unaffected countries, South Sudan started the implementation of the following activities to prevent any Ebola or other Viral Haemorrhagic Fever (VHF) cases as well as prepare for the proper management of cases in the event of the

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disease being introduced. All the activities being undertaken by South Sudan are based on WHO recommendations.

1. South Sudan has not issued a travel ban to Ebola affected countries in West Africa or other countries in the world.
2. Screening of travellers is being implemented at ports of entry, namely Juba International Airport, Wau airport, Yambio and Nzara Airstrips, and Nimule Land Port. Same is being introduced at major land crossings into South Sudan. Therefore, all passengers travelling on any carrier into South Sudan will be screened for high temperature using infra-red non-contact thermometers at all entry points.
3. Passengers who have high temperature (38 °C) or passengers with history of recent travel to Ebola affected countries (less than 21 days), will further be seen by a trained doctor at the port of entry for the risk of Ebola exposure based on the standard (WHO) Ebola case definition. If there is no risk, the person is allowed to enter the country. If low risk, the person may be allowed to enter, but with advice and continuous follow up by the health team. If the person is of high risk, he/she will be quarantined at pre-designated Ebola Isolation Centre. The laboratory result will inform the decision to discharge the person from the isolation or not.
4. All passengers who come to South Sudan will be asked to complete a standard form about their itinerary and history of travel enroute to, or before arrival to South Sudan over the past 21 days, based on the standard format developed and distributed by the Ministry of Health. The screening team at the port of entry will collect the completed forms from passengers.
5. Passengers who are transiting through Juba and whose airlines reserve hotels for them, are advised to stay in their respective hotels only .
6. All passengers from affected or high-risk countries, who enter South Sudan, will be tracked and checked for their health status, on a daily basis for at most 21 days by trained health workers. The Ministry of Health is coordinating with the UN system and NGOs forum in order to fulfil the monitoring requirements.
7. The government advises all South Sudanese people to avoid travel to Ebola affected countries, unless it is absolutely essential. Equally, the government advises the UNMISS, the UN agencies, INGOs and diplomatic corps to advise their staff against movement between Ebola affected countries and South Sudan unless it is very critical and necessary.



8. In light of the on-going intense transmission of Ebola in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, all travellers to EVD affected countries should be advised against returning to South Sudan, or else, will be required to spend at least 21 days in a third country known to have not been affected by the Ebola.
9. Passengers from EVD affected countries willing to travel to South Sudan, must obtain health clearance from health authorities in their respective countries before applying for entry visa to South Sudan. South Sudan missions in EVD affected countries are, therefore, advised to issue visas only upon presentation of such clearance.

Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

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Ministry of Health



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