

# Guidelines for NY-based UN System Personnel travelling to EVD-affected Countries



## Before you depart to an EVD-affected country

As soon as you are informed that you are travelling to an Ebola-affected country, please be reminded that both security and medical clearances are required.

All UN System NY-based staff members must come to one of the three Medical Service clinics at UHNQ, DC1 and UNICEF (no appointment required) as soon as possible at least ten days prior to travel gives the best chances of immediate clearance, MSD will assess your fitness to travel, (including providing necessary vaccines) and determine medical travel clearance as well as provide you with an information package. All staff members are required to complete the assessment form for personnel traveling into EVD-affected countries.

If medically cleared, the dates of departure and return are recorded in MSD's Electronic Medical Record System (Earthmed) for monitoring purposes (a daily report is generated with a list of staff returning on that day). If there is any change to the departure or return dates, please notify MSD at [msdpublichealth@un.org](mailto:msdpublichealth@un.org)



## During your stay in an EVD affected country

The risk of travellers becoming infected during a stay in Ebola outbreak areas is low because transmission can only occur in the context of direct contact with blood, secretions, organs or other body fluids of dead or living infected persons or animals.

The MSD recommends all UN personnel:

- Always practice regular hand washing (or use alcohol hand-rub)
- Avoid all physical contact with any person or animal suspected of having EVD
- Avoid all contact with body fluids from persons or animals suspected of having EVD
- Avoid unprotected sexual intercourse with an infected person or a person recovering from EVD
- Avoid handling or eating wild meat.

Healthcare workers should practice strict infection control measures including use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (i.e. gowns, surgical/medical masks, goggles, and gloves).

The Emergency Preparedness and Support Team (EPST) and the Staff Counsellor's Office (SCO) are available to provide support to staff members and their families travelling to the affected countries.



## Upon arrival to the EVD-affected country

Present to the medical service within the first day in the duty station. Ensure that you have information for that duty station on the procedures to be followed should you fall ill, including any contact details and telephone numbers that you may need e.g. after hours.



## Before you depart from an EVD-affected country

Prior to departing a country affected by EVD, you are required to be screened by the duty station's UN Medical Officer who will complete an exit assessment form for all UN personnel traveling from EVD-affected countries, and who will give personalized advice based on the outcome of this assessment.

**At the airport:** Exit screening, which includes temperature readings and risk assessment is also performed by trained personnel at the airport **before** departure from the EVD-affected country.



## When you return to New York from an EVD-affected country

**Upon arrival at the airport:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Homeland Security's Customs & Border Protection (CPB) have established systems of screening and surveillance for all travellers returning from the Ebola-affected countries to New York. Entry screening which includes, temperature reading and risk assessment is carried out at the airport upon arrival to the USA.

Depending on the results of your evaluation, you may be referred for follow-up by the public health authorities in your state of residence.

**On the first working day after arrival at home and prior to reporting to work:** You are required to telephone the MSD Ebola Response Line at: +1-(917) 367-3391. We will undertake an assessment over the phone, and provide you with further information and support.

If you are returning from an Ebola-affected country and neither MSD nor the local Health Department does not authorize you to return to work, than do not report to work. MSD will contact your Department/Organization.



### Where can I get more information?

For more information, the following websites are regularly updated:

- EPST site: [www.un-epst.org](http://www.un-epst.org)
- WHO: [www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en)
- UN Secretariat: iSeek Ebola Alert site: [iseek-newyork.un.org/departmental\\_page/updated-information-regarding-ebola](http://iseek-newyork.un.org/departmental_page/updated-information-regarding-ebola)

21

## During the 21 days following arrival in New York from an EVD affected country

A person who does not have symptoms cannot transmit Ebola Virus. To ensure early detection of symptoms, all travellers returning to USA from Ebola-affected countries will be monitored effective 27 October 2014.

You are required to self-monitor your temperature, twice daily for 21 days. During this period, local health authorities and MSD will both follow-up with you to provide further support and instructions.

Should you develop **any** Ebola-like symptoms such as fever, headache, muscle pain, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain or unexplained bleeding or bruising, follow these steps:

- Avoid direct contact with others.
- Do not report to work.
- Call the MSD Ebola Response Line at 1 917 367 3391 or, after working hours: call 911 and be sure to inform them of your recent travel to an Ebola-affected country.

A person who does not have symptoms cannot transmit EVD and is able to return to work.

Dedicated support initiatives are available:

- Post mission counselling session(s)
- Counselling outreach for family members.

Should you have any queries, the following offices may be contacted:

### Medical Services Division (MSD)

for strictly medical related questions only:

- [msdpublichealth@un.org](mailto:msdpublichealth@un.org)
- +1- (917)-367-3391 (Ebola Response line)

### Emergency Preparedness and Support Team (EPST) and Staff Counsellor's Office (SCO)

for non-medical related questions and support to family members of personnel travelling to the Ebola affected countries:

- [epst@un.org](mailto:epst@un.org) or [scolearn@un.org](mailto:scolearn@un.org)
- +1-(212)-963-7044

Recommendations contained in this message are constantly reviewed in accordance with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the UN Medical Directors Working Group, and local public health authorities in New York City.