EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD)

PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES FOR STEPPING UP NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS

Countries with widespread and intense transmission:
- Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone

Countries with an initial case or cases, or with localized transmission:
- Nigeria, Senegal, Spain, United States of America

Ebola was first identified in 1976

As of October 2014
- > 8000 cases
- > 4600 deaths

Still counting

Possible scenarios for introduction of Ebola in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region

Air
The risk of transmission of Ebola through international travel by air is presumed to be low but, in all likelihood, this would be the most probable route for the introduction of Ebola into countries of the Region

By land or sea
This carries a low risk

Trade in animals
This carries a low risk

Silent importation and cases appearing in health facilities
**EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD)**

**PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES FOR EARLY DETECTION AND PREVENTION OF TRANSMISSION**

1. **Strengthening leadership and coordination**
   - Set up an intersectoral coordination mechanism for:
     - information sharing
     - periodic risk assessment
     - managing the national and international operational response should cases occur

2. **Screening at points of entry as required under the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005)**
   - Increase awareness of points of entry (POE) officials
   - Reinforce the team managing the screening of arriving passengers
   - Ensure that POE officials are appropriately trained for assessment, screening, detection and handling of any suspected Ebola case
   - Ensure availability of measures for isolation of suspected cases for investigation and management
   - Ensure there is effective coordination for information sharing and reporting between designated POE officials and the Ministry of Health
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3 Enhancing surveillance for contact tracing and monitoring

- Conduct surveillance for clusters of unexplained deaths or febrile illness in all countries.
- Watch contacts for symptoms of sickness for 21 days.

Develop a protocol for contact tracing:
- Ask about contacts.

Disseminate case definition of Ebola to all health care facilities.

Train staff on field epidemiology, investigation, contact tracing and data management.

Risk of spreading Ebola?

If contact shows no symptoms after 21 days:
- Contact not at risk.

Watch contacts for symptoms of sickness for 21 days.

Missed contact?
**EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD)**

PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES FOR EARLY DETECTION AND PREVENTION OF TRANSMISSION

4 Reinforcing infection control precautions in health care settings

a Identify, designate and establish (where necessary) appropriate isolation units for patient care

b Ensure availability of sufficient quantities of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other disinfectant materials at point of care

Ensure that health care workers are appropriately trained on the use of PPE and have practised putting them on and taking them off correctly, and they have been trained on other barrier nursing practices for care of Ebola patients in health care facilities.
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5

Improving access to quality diagnostic testing and rapid turnaround of results

a

Train staff on collection, storage and transportation of samples from suspected cases and deactivation of specimens ensuring application of appropriate bio-security measures

b

Establish a process for rapid shipment of specimens to WHO reference laboratories

c

Ensure capacity to perform routine diagnostic testing
Improving social mobilization and risk communication for Ebola

Develop communications products for various target groups

Protect yourself from Ebola

Advise target audiences on what can be done to prevent the virus from spreading

Provide essential information on Ebola for the general public and at-risk populations

Build capacity to perform social mobilization and risk communication before outbreaks occur

Develop key messages on preparedness, and modify as the situation evolves