



**衛生防護中心**  
Centre for Health Protection

## **Infection Control Branch**

### **Health Advice for Hotel Industry on serving guests with history of travel to or resided in the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) affected areas**

#### **I. Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)**

##### **Causative Agent**

EVD is caused by infection with Ebola virus. EVD in humans has an average case fatality rate of around 50% (varied from 25% to 90% from previous outbreaks).

##### **Clinical Features**

2. EVD is a severe acute viral illness often characterised by the sudden onset of fever, intense weakness, muscle pain, headache and sore throat. This is followed by vomiting, diarrhoea, rash, impaired kidney and liver function, and in some severe cases, internal and external bleeding.

##### **Mode of Transmission**

2. Ebola virus can spread in the community through human-to-human transmission, with infection resulting from direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected people, and indirect contact with environment contaminated with such fluids.



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The Centre for Health  
Protection is a  
professional arm of the  
Department of Health  
for disease prevention  
and control

3. An infected person may spread the disease to others after (and not before) he/she has developed symptoms and will remain infectious as long as their blood and secretions contain the virus.

### **Incubation Period**

4. It ranges from 2 to 21 days.

### **Treatment**

5. There is no specific treatment for the disease.

6. Patients must be managed in isolation facilities to prevent the spread of the infection.

### **Vaccination**

7. There is no licensed vaccine available for EVD.

8. The Department of Health advises hotel industry to take the following precautionary measures to minimize the risk of contracting and spreading EVD.

## **II. Preventive Measures**

### **Advice upon check-in at reception**

#### **All Guests:**

- (a) Ask guests whether they have resided in or history of travel to an affected area in the past 21 days. For the update on affected area of EVD, please visit Centre for Health Protection (CHP) website [https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/evd\\_updated\\_statistics.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/evd_updated_statistics.pdf)
- (b) Advise to observe good personal hygiene, especially on hand hygiene <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/healthtopics/content/460/19728.html> and proper cough manners.
- (c) Provide alcohol-based handrub containing 70–80% alcohol to guests in public areas.

- (d) Provide surgical masks to guests if they develop respiratory symptoms. For information on the use of surgical masks, please visit <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/healthtopics/content/460/19731.html>.

**For guests with history of travel to or resided in the EVD affected areas:**

- (e) Provide EVD pamphlet upon check-in or visit [https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/her/leaflet\\_evd\\_eng.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/her/leaflet_evd_eng.pdf).
- (f) Guest(s) is/are advised to stay in the room if feeling unwell, wear a surgical mask and call hotel operator at once for assistance.

**Handling sick guest(s) with history of travel to or resided in the EVD affected areas:**

- (a) Advise and assist sick guest(s) who develop symptoms of EVD within 21 days returned from the affected areas, call 999 and inform the staff about the condition of sick guest(s) to arrange consultation in Accident and Emergency Department.
- (b) Before seeking medical care:
- i. Advise sick guest(s) to stay in his/her room and put on a surgical mask.
  - ii. Group and relocate any asymptomatic roommate(s) to another room, and they should stay in the relocated room(s).
- (c) Minimize contact with sick guest(s), and other guest(s) travelling along with the sick guest(s).
- (d) Staff should put on a surgical mask, water resistant gown (or plastic apron on top of disposable gown), gloves, eye protection (goggles/face shield) and gumboots<sup>#</sup> if contact with sick guest(s) or other guest(s) travelling along with sick guest(s) is required  
*(# Use gumboots if environment is grossly contaminated with blood or body fluid.)*
- (e) Environmental cleaning and disinfection

- i. Cleansing staff should wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including surgical mask, water resistant gown (or plastic apron on top of disposable gown), double gloves (Inner gloves: latex or nitrile gloves; outer gloves: rubber gloves), eye protection (goggles/ face shield), cap (optional) and gumboots.
- ii. Disinfect all potentially contaminated surfaces or items (for example, elevator control panels, corridor handrail, room furniture) by using 1 part of household bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite to 49 parts of water, leave for 15-30 minutes, rinse with water and wipe dry afterwards.
- iii. If places are contaminated by blood, secretions, vomitus or excreta, enhanced measures should be taken:
  - Use strong absorbent disposable towels to wipe away the blood, secretions, vomitus or excreta.
  - Put the used absorbent disposable towels in a waste bag carefully without contaminating oneself/ the environment.
  - Use 1 part of household bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite to 4 parts of water, leave for 10 minutes, rinse with water and wipe dry afterwards.
  - After the procedure, put all the waste in the waste bag.
  - Carefully remove PPE and put them in the waste bag, and then wash hands with liquid soap and water.
  - Seal the waste bag and dispose it properly in covered rubbish bin. Then, label the rubbish bin and put it in a safe undisturbed place until the status of case is confirmed##.
  - Wash hands with liquid soap and water.

## If EVD is confirmed, CHP will inform the hotel as soon as possible and the waste will be collected by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. On the contrary, if EVD is excluded, the wastes can be disposed as usual.

- iv. For details of “Proper Use of Bleach”, please visit. <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/static/100272.html>.

(f) Hotel management should always keep a list of staff and residents

who had stayed in the hotel, their period of stay (check-in and check-out dates), identification / passport number, age, sex, nationality, contact telephone number, for possible public health action in case the patient is confirmed to be suffering from EVD

- (g) Depending on the situation, hotel management may need to suspend any mass gathering or social activities in the hotel.

## **Infection Control & Prevention in Hotel Industry**

For details, please refer to CHP's publication '*Guidelines on Infection Control & Prevention in Hotel Industry*' [https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/105\\_guideline\\_on\\_infection\\_controland\\_prevention\\_in\\_hotel\\_industry.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/105_guideline_on_infection_controland_prevention_in_hotel_industry.pdf), in particular refer to Chapter 3 - Preventive Measures against Communicable Diseases (page 24) on the part regarding handling of sick guests and Chapter 5 - *Outbreak of Communicable Diseases* (page 45-47).

## **Updated information for EVD**

For update on the latest situation of EVD, please visit CHP website at [http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view\\_content/34199.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/34199.html)

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