



Ebola Virus Disease

Advice for Community (Non-Healthcare) Settings in Ireland

This guidance is for all individuals in the community setting who may through their job or social interaction, come in contact with a person who may be infected with Ebola.

Key Messages:

- The likelihood of contracting Ebola in Ireland is extremely low but it is important to be prepared.
- Ebola is not spread through the air. It is only spread if there is direct contact with the blood or body fluids (saliva, urine, faeces, vomit, semen, breast milk) of a person who is sick with Ebola.
- If you do come in contact with a suspected Ebola case, follow the flow diagram below which outlines the basic steps you should take in case of such an event.

What to do if you come into contact with a suspected Ebola case?

Ask the following questions:

Has the person arrived from an Ebola affected country (e.g. **Guinea, Liberia or Sierra Leone**) or have they spent any time in these countries within the past 21 days?

See www.hpsc.ie for an up-to-date list of Ebola-affected countries



If NO, continue as normal



If YES

Does the person appear unwell? Symptoms to look out for include fever (e.g. pale skin, sweating, shivering), diarrhoea, vomiting, weakness, muscle and joint pains and headaches?



If NO, then you are not at risk of contracting Ebola. Ebola is only contagious if the infected person has symptoms of infection.



If YES

1. **Talk - Don't Touch.** Maintain a distance of **at least 3 feet** from the person (unless the person is vomiting – then maintain a distance of **7-10 feet**)
2. **Isolate the person** (e.g. Move the person into a side room, ideally with a telephone to enable telephone assessment if necessary and a toilet)
3. **Call an ambulance.** Tell them that the ill person has recently returned from an Ebola-affected country
4. **Handwashing** with soap and water is an important method for protecting yourself and your community from the spread of Ebola virus
5. **Advice on environmental cleaning can be found on the HPSC website at:**
<http://www.hpsc.ie/A-Z/Vectorborne/ViralHaemorrhagicFever/Ebola/EbolaInformationforthegeneralpublic/>