

本署檔號    Our Ref. : (35) in DH SEB CD/8/15/1 Pt.22

11 May 2015

Dear Doctor,

### Update on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

We are writing to provide you with updated information on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

As reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 8 May 2015, there are a total of 26,648 cases and 11,007 deaths with an overall case fatality rate estimated to be 41%. The WHO has declared the end of EVD outbreak in Liberia on 9 May 2015, as a period of 42 days (i.e. two incubation period for EVD) have passed since the burial of the last confirmed case in Liberia.

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) has now updated the list of affected areas in the reporting criteria of EVD as follows:

- Guinea
- Liberia (**on or before 9 May 2015**)
- Sierra Leone

The updated list of affected areas is also available at [http://chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/evd\\_affected\\_area.pdf](http://chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/evd_affected_area.pdf).

Please kindly note that patients who have visited Liberia on or before 9 May 2015 and develop EVD symptoms within 21 days after the visit still fulfill the reporting criteria. Patients meeting the reporting criteria (available at <https://ceno.chp.gov.hk/casedef/casedef.pdf>) should be isolated immediately and notified to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of CHP via fax (2477 2770), phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line (<http://ceno.chp.gov.hk/>). Please also call our Medical Control Officer at 7116 3300 a/c 9179 for prompt investigation and arrangement of transfer of the patient to the Hospital Authority Infectious Disease Centre in Princess Margaret Hospital for isolation, testing and treatment.



Moreover, according to the latest information of WHO, sexual transmission of the Ebola virus, from males to females, is a strong possibility, but has not yet been proven. Less probable, but theoretically possible, is female to male transmission. Studies have shown that Ebola virus can be isolated from semen up to 82 days after symptom onset and a recent case investigation identified genetic material (RNA) from the virus by nucleic acid amplification tests (such as RT-PCR) 199 days after symptom onset. Ebola virus RNA has also been detected by RT-PCR in vaginal fluid from one woman 33 days after symptom onset. Doctors should be aware of this possible transmission route of EVD in encountering patients with compatible symptoms.

In addition, a newly published article “Persistence of Ebola Virus in Ocular Fluid during Convalescence<sup>1</sup>”, in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) reported that a man developed severe, acute, unilateral uveitis during his convalescent phase of EVD. Viable Ebola virus was also detected in aqueous humor obtained from the inflamed eye 14 weeks after the onset of the initial symptoms of EVD and 9 weeks after the clearance of viremia.

For more information about EVD, please visit the following websites of the CHP and WHO: [http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view\\_content/34199.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/34199.html) and <http://apps.who.int/ebola/>. Thank you for your continuous support in combating the disease.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr S K CHUANG)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection  
Department of Health

---

<sup>1</sup> Full text is available from: <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1500306#t=article>