



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

## **Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases**

### **Consensus Summary on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)**

**(Updated on 9 October 2014)**

Since the last meeting of this Scientific Committee held in August 2014, the situation of the outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in West Africa has not yet been under control. More cases and deaths have been reported in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. The first case of EVD has also been reported in the countries including Senegal, the United States of America and Spain respectively. The case fatality rate of the outbreak remained high at around 48% and a significant portion of the cases were healthcare workers. However, according to a study<sup>1</sup> conducted by the WHO Ebola Response Team, published in September 2014, the case fatality rate can be up to 70.8%. A separate outbreak of EVD unrelated to the outbreak in West Africa was also reported in the Equateur Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

2. Between 16 and 21 September 2014, the WHO held the second meeting of the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations (2005) regarding the 2014 EVD outbreak in West Africa. The Committee extended the temporary recommendations issued on 8 August 2014.

3. This Scientific Committee has noted that Hong Kong SAR has adopted the preventive strategies which are in line with those recommended by WHO.

4. The risk of importation of EVD cases to Hong Kong still exists due to extensive international travel. The well-developed public



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Protection is a*

*professional arm of the  
Department of Health for  
disease prevention and  
control*

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<sup>1</sup> Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa — The First 9 Months of the Epidemic and Forward Projections is available at :  
<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1411100?query=OF&&t=abstract>

health and hospital infrastructure in Hong Kong, with the heightened awareness of the general public and healthcare professionals are essential to reduce the risk of EVD to spread in the community.

5. Members of the public should avoid unnecessary travel to the affected areas. Travellers should always observe good personal and environmental hygiene and avoid contact with ill persons and wild animals. Travellers returning from affected areas should observe closely their health condition. If they become unwell within 21 days, they should call 999 and inform the staff about their condition to arrange consultation at Accident and Emergency Department.

6. Vigilance against EVD among healthcare professionals is crucial. EVD is a notifiable disease under viral haemorrhagic fever in Hong Kong. Suspected cases should be isolated and notified to the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health immediately. Healthcare professionals should practise strict infection control measures to minimise the risk of disease transmission in healthcare settings.

7. To prevent and control the spread of EVD, the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee to the Centre for Health Protection to work collaboratively with various stakeholders are:

- Appropriate measures should be implemented at border control points based on the latest overseas situation to assist early identification of suspected EVD cases;
- Intensive surveillance for EVD should be continued so as to detect, investigate, isolate and manage any suspected cases promptly;
- Healthcare professionals should comply with the most updated infection control guidelines for the prevention of EVD. Regular drills on such infection control practices should be held in hospitals with acute services;
- Close liaison with WHO should be maintained by the Department of Health, the latest WHO recommendations should be monitored, and public health preventive and control measures should be adopted as appropriate;
- Health education to travellers and the general public should be enhanced; and
- The availability of safe and effective vaccines and antivirals for EVD should be closely monitored.

**Centre for Health Protection**  
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