**Ebola Virus Disease Risk Assessment for use by Ambulance Personnel**

**Infection Control Precautions**

**Standard Precautions (SP).** Transmission-based precautions may be required to manage other suspected infections/coloniisation.

**Standard, Droplet & Contact Precautions:** Hand hygiene, gloves, fluid repellent surgical face mask, long sleeved fluid repellent/resistant gown, goggles or visor. Use airborne precautions for aerosol generating procedures (FFP3 mask plus PPE outlined above).

**Public Health Contact Details**

**HSE E:** 01 635 2145 021 420 9848
**HSE M:** 057 935 8991 057 935 8165/6
**HSE MW:** 061 483 338 021 420 9848
**HSE NE:** 046 907 6412 086 606 2537
**HSE NW:** 071 985 2900 087 953 7807
**HSE SE:** 056 778 4142 1890 499 199
**HSE S:** 021 492 7601 021 4290848
**HSE W:** 091 775 200 094 906 3000

Out of hours contact public health via Ambulance Control

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**Please note background colour coding indicates infection control precautions as per right-hand panel**

**If attending a patient on an aircraft see additional steps below before assessing patient.**

*Clinical:* Does the patient have a fever (38.6°C/101.5°F) or history of fever in the previous 24 hours?

*AND*

*Travel History:* Has the patient returned from (or is currently residing in) an area affected by current outbreak in the 21 days before onset of symptoms? (Contact Control for up-todate list: www.hpsc.ie) OR *Epi-link:* Has the patient had contact with a confirmed or probable case of EVD?

**If patient in close proximity to other people, remove patient to less crowded area for assessment.**

Patients with respiratory symptoms should wear a surgical mask, if tolerated.

Ambulance Control to contact National Isolation Unit (NIU) on 01 830 8969 & ask for Infectious Disease Consultant.

Ambulance Control to initiate direct phone contact between Paramedics and NIU to facilitate risk assessment.

**No**

**Assessment Outcome = No Risk**

If EVD unlikely:
- EVD test not routinely indicated
- De-escalate infection prevention & control precautions
- Waste to be managed as standard

Transport to nearest Emergency Department

**Assessment Outcome = No High Risk Exposure, likely alternative diagnosis**

**Remote Risk Assessment by NIU physician**


**Assessment Outcome = High Risk Exposure**

Ambulance Service EVD Procedures activated

Control to notify Director of Public Health/ MOH of case at risk of EVD if patient from aircraft**.

Transport patient to location as advised by NIU physician (may be local ED, NIU etc.)

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**On attending a patient on an aircraft:**

Before entry on airplane, ensure standard, droplet and contact precautions as per side panel.

Ambulance Personnel should assess the patient and ask the clinical and travel questions given above^.

On the advice of Specialist in Public Health Medicine/MOH, Ambulance Personnel should:

A. **PRIORITY.** Distribute and collect Passenger Locator Cards (PLC)** for (i) passengers seated one seat in each direction from the ill person (see picture opposite) (ii) persons who reported direct contact with patient, (iii) crew serving that section. HSE NAS will forward these PRIORITY cards with report copy directly to the Public Health Specialist.

B. Request the airline cabin crew to, *where practicable*:

i. Announce the Travel Health Alert Announcement - template is available
ii. Distribute and collect Passenger Locator Cards** from all other passengers and crew (to fill in and be collected by airline)
iii. Distribute a copy of the Travel Health Alert Announcement Leaflet** to all passengers and crew.
iv. Completed Passenger Locator Cards should be provided to the local Dept of Public Health by the airline

All well passengers should then be allowed to disembark, using exits without passing the patient.

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*Relevant area for trace-backs, viral haemorrhagic fevers (Lassa, Marburg, Ebola) ECDC Risk assessment guidelines for diseases transmitted on aircraft 2nd ed. Stockholm: ECDC,2010

**Requirement to contact Director of Public Health/Medical Officer of Health under Infectious Disease Aircraft Regulations. See side panel for contact details.